

Hurd's long vowels caught in a time-warp



Kennedy: "ein Berliner"

WHEN John Kennedy, meaning to express his solidarity with the besieged people of Berlin by declaring "I am a Berliner", he is said to have blundered. There is a doubt that Kennedy's phrasing implied that the US President was claiming to be one of these.

If the Foreign Secretary was to be believed yesterday afternoon, Prince Charles has now gone further. "I was with the Prince of Wales in Germany this morning," Mr Hurd told surprised MPs, "in the big square of Hamburg, where he made an eloquent speech in German, on the theme of future co-operation, to a large crowd of Hamburgers."

Having tired of conversation with plants, perhaps HRH has decided to broaden



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

his social circle. Poor Mr Hurd. Hearing the laughter he realised his error and joined in.

But it tells you something about this class but dated Foreign Secretary that the word "Hamburger" could have occurred to him in any context but that of fast food. Among MPs, Mr Hurd is one of the diminishing band who, it remains possible to believe, have never entered the doors of McDonald's or Burger King.

The Serbian leadership, he told MPs in a statement about the Balkans, would "cut off their people from the future of Europe". Your sketchwriter is less confident than Mr Hurd that he knows

Europe's future, but confident at least that, sadly, it will contain nobody who says "or" any more.

There is a paradox about Europeanist performances from both sides of the Chamber these days. The talk is all of the modernity, of the future, and of vision for the next generation. But the accents, the abstract nouns, and the class-associations are faintly grand and strangely dated. It all seems a bit *Pathé* Newsreel, a bit 1960s. It looks toward a future which we then believed was round the corner: a future of world government, unisex finfo clothing, the United Nations, vitamin pills, electric cars, and Esperanto.

The warring factions in the Balkans, the Foreign Secretary told us, were "living in a time-warp" — the time-warp of outdated and belligerent small-state nationalisms. They seemed blind to the future, said Hurd, a future of "reconciliation, reconstruction and the making of a new Europe".

This was compelling. But I couldn't quite dispel the thought that it might be Mr Hurd and friends, busy in the attempt at making a new Europe, who were in the time-warp.

The House of Commons is turning against the British-backed United Nations effort in the Balkans. Mr Hurd's statement yesterday was masterful, as ever. Who else can tip-toe so lightly? Germany's catastrophic decision to force EU recognition for Balkan republics was characterised thus: "Historians will argue

about the timing." Nicholas Budgen guffawed.

And the Foreign Secretary must have noticed that his pleas for patience and plaudits for the UN forces' role were getting scant echo from his own side. The usual suspects grumbled, but more interesting was to hear the thoughtful David Howell declare "there is no peace to keep", or note the cautious David Smeeth and the trusty Sir Anthony Grant voice doubts.

Bitterly, Hurd characterised the isolationists as the "let-them-fight-it-out" brigade, and out of touch. But if they are in a time-warp, then it's growing. As Ruff-Ruff, Magenta, Frankfurter and finally the whole company sing in *The Rocky Horror Show*: "Let's do the time-warp, again."

Hamburg visit, page 9

Britain 'deployed personnel mines in Ireland'

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

ANTI-personnel mines have been made in Britain as recently as 1986, possibly for use in Northern Ireland, despite Government assertions that none had been produced here for more than a decade, it was disclosed yesterday.

A small number had been manufactured by Royal Ordnance factories, Roger Freeman, the Defence Procurement Minister, said in a written Commons answer. The Mines Advisory Group, a charity that clears mines around the world, said the mines were made in Britain after America refused to supply a similar model when it was discovered they were to be used in Northern Ireland to defend isolated Army border posts and other military installations.

The Ministry of Defence stopped buying British land-mines in 1983 and last year the Government imposed a partial export ban after growing international opposition. Last night the Ministry of Defence refused to comment on whether the mines had been deployed in Northern Ireland but emphasised that none was deployed now.

Mr Freeman said that the Projector Area Defence Weapons made in 1986 were not previously classified as anti-personnel land-mines. "However, further research has now established that these weapons fall within the standard Nato definition of a land-mine," he said in the written reply to David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP for Mossley Hill.

"Consequently, previous statements that the UK had not produced anti-personnel mines for over a decade are not accurate in relation to the PJRAD."

The more correctly titled Projected Area Defence mines are held on stilts above the ground so that the force of the blast moves horizontally, spreading the damage over a wider area. Like the American M1A1 mine on which they are modelled, the PAD mine propels hundreds of ball bearings through a 50 degree angle for more than 50 yards at a height of up to 6ft. However, the MoD said they were not "victim operated" and could only be set off electrically by remote control.

"They are extremely dangerous and random weapons that have a wide impact when they go off," Rae McGrath, director of the Mines Advisory Group, said. "To even think of using these things in Great Britain in support of police action against terrorists is astonishing. It is murderous."

MP calls for more details of war spies

An MP called yesterday for the release of more secret documents on suspected British spies. Barry Field, Tory MP for the Isle of Wight, where Dorothy O'Grady, a landlady, was said to have worked as a Nazi agent in 1940, has written to John Major urging the release of information on wartime spies. Among the files on O'Grady's secret trial for treachery in 1940, held by the Crown Prosecution Service, there is a letter to her solicitor: "Under no circumstances will I ever divulge the names of any person or people I have been working with in the interest of Germany."

Arrests at port

Fourteen animal rights protesters were arrested outside Dover harbour yesterday after vainly trying to stop exporters shipping up ships' contents of farm animals to the Continent. More than 200 demonstrators, their numbers swelled by colleagues from Shoreham, West Sussex, shouted abuse as 26 livestock lorries in three convoys arrived at the port.

Police swoop

More than 500 people have been charged after police raided nearly 2,000 houses across southern England and Wales looking for stolen property. Among items recovered were oil paintings, jewellery, firearms, ammunition, drugs, passports, credit cards, a large quantity of BBC costumes — and a complete kitchen, including appliances and units.

Scots law chief

Downing Street announced yesterday that Donald Mackay, QC, 49, is to be the new Solicitor-General for Scotland in succession to Thomas Dawson, QC. The appointment, approved by the Queen, follows Mr Dawson's appointment as a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland. Mr Dawson had been Solicitor-General for Scotland since 1992.

Protest violence

Twenty protesters against the M65 extension were arrested yesterday during violent scenes at a tree-top village at Stanworth Woods near Blackburn, Lancashire. A 6ft metal post was flung from 60ft up a tree, sticking in the ground just a foot from a policeman as eight treehouses were cleared of occupants. There are about eight treehouses left.

Leopard attack

A 25-year-old man was clawed by a leopard at a zoo yesterday after he climbed over a safety fence to try to stroke the animal. Carl Hogen, from Richmond, London, drank three pints of beer before scaling the outer of two enclosure fences at Marwell Zoo, near Winchester, Hampshire. He was treated for gashes to his arms and chest.

File reopened

Falkland Islands police have reopened the file on a Royal Marine who disappeared in 1980. A police spokesman said foul play was suspected in the case of Alan Addis, 19, of Wrawley, Humberside, who disappeared after a night out. Two years ago his mother, Ann, who refused to accept that her son had fallen into the sea, won her fight to have the case reopened.

Island for sale

The island of Seap in the Outer Hebrides is being sold by receivers of the property company Orbitigen, formerly managed by the disgraced businessman Nazrudin Virani. The island, uninhabited since 1971, is expected to attract offers of over £75,000. Virani was jailed for his dealings in the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Tories prepare to drop commitment to child benefit

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER LILLEY signalled yesterday that the Tories may drop their commitment to a universal child benefit in their next election manifesto. The Social Security Secretary indicated that reform of the subsidy, which is paid to all mothers, was being considered as part of his department's long-term review of social security.

He said the Government was committed to paying the benefit for every child until the next general election but hinted that the formula, which has restricted any revision of the allowance, which costs the state £6 billion, may not be contained in the next manifesto. "We have clearly a manifesto to commitment to maintaining the present system of child benefit," Mr Lilley said. He emphasised that help would undoubtedly still be given towards the cost of child rearing. "I cannot envisage a system where we did not have a benefit or tax system or both which recognised the costs of bringing up children."

He referred to the fact that child benefit emerged from a system of child tax allowances, benefiting the father, which were scrapped in the 1970s. Since then ministers have repeatedly tussled over whether the benefit should still go to all mothers, irrespective of income, as now, or whether it should be taxed, means tested, or given to the under fives only. At present £10.20 a week is given to the first child, and

£8.25 for subsequent children. Social security sources insisted that no options were under active discussion yet and a decision may be delayed until after the election.

Mr Lilley is aware that Labour intends to come up with its own proposals for child benefit, following work done by the Social Justice Commission. A working party set up by Tony Blair is now examining a proposal to tax child benefit for high earners. The Social Justice Commission claimed that £300 million could be saved from such a plan, which could fund a 60p increase in the universal benefit. Labour would still be able to argue that it was paying the benefit to all, while ensuring it was targeted more effectively.

Mr Lilley, speaking at a Press Gallery lunch, angered



Lilley: wheelchair joke

disabled groups by suggesting that fraudsters might take to wheelchairs to claim disability benefit under tighter rules that come into effect next month. Anticipating protest about the new incapacity benefit test, he forecast an "orchestrated, somewhat synthetic campaign against it which will be organised around the country". He joked to journalists: "We will see, on our television screens, people who have been refused the benefit and, for the first time in their lives, are to be seen in a wheelchair."

Those actually wheelchair-bound, he added, would not have to take the test.

Labour immediately rounded on Mr Lilley, saying it was "deplorable" that he should suggest that those opposing the incapacity benefit rule changes would be prepared to take to wheelchairs on a basis of fraud. Donald Dewar, Labour's spokesman, said Mr Lilley should worry about the damage he was doing by introducing the new rules, rather than "sneer at those who face an uncertain future".

Brian Lamb, head of campaigns for Scope, formerly the Spastics Society, said the jibe could incite more discrimination. "This is an absolutely outrageous statement that will only encourage future unfounded prejudice against disabled people, at a time when Mr Lilley's department is sponsoring a Bill which would eradicate discrimination against disabled people."



Mark Boldin in a Zagreb hospital after being wounded by shrapnel yesterday

Serbs bomb crowds in Zagreb

Continued from page 1

In Zagreb, about 400 youngsters, some of whom were just a few days old, huddled in a bare concrete room in rows of three-tiered steel bunks racked close together.

In two cramped cots, a dozen tiny infants in swaddling lay head to head, like

dolls arranged on a blanket. Older children lay curled up asleep and bored little boys sat in rows swinging their legs as orderlies, nurses and doctors calmly dispensed food and medicine from a makeshift kitchen-dispensary erected on a bare metal bunkbed. "It's a cell, but we

are prepared," Ivan Faktorini, the hospital director, said. "We can stay closed there and provide shelter, food and water for 400 for 12 days if we have to."

Innocents targeted, page 15
Leading article and Letters, page 21

Major challenge

Continued from page 1
tions over the weekend may provide some respite for the Government, troubles are piling up. There is strong City speculation that the Chancellor and Bank of England Governor will agree another interest rate rise tomorrow.

Next Wednesday, the Government faces a backbench revolt over London hospital closures, and the by-election at Perth and Kinross at the end of May will almost certainly further reduce its Commons majority.

The Conservatives' unhappy run-up to today's elections continued yesterday when they were again thrown on to the defensive over the U-turn on taxing payouts from mortgage protection insurance.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor pointed to "the chaotic shambles at the heart of the Government", saying: "Tax decisions are now made in panic without proper discussion and made not in the public interest, but driven by the electoral desperation of the Tory party."

But Kenneth Clarke said the decision not to levy the tax came after ministers had considered routine recommendations from Inland Revenue

officials. He said that officials referred the most important rulings on tax liability to their minister. Sir George Young, who would occasionally pass them to the Chancellor.

"He referred this one, and it took us five or ten minutes to sort out a tax that had never been charged, a tax that no minister had ever proposed and a tax that was never collected," Mr Clarke said.

With the Tories facing the loss of up to 1,500 seats today, Labour and Liberal Democrats were yesterday furiously trying to contain expectations and Paddy Ashdown predicted that many people would say "a plague on all your houses" and boycott the poll.

Almost 29,000 candidates are competing for about 12,000 seats in England and Wales. Some 9,158 of the candidates are Labour, 7,855 Conservatives and 7,248 Liberal Democrats. There are also more than 3,000 candidates who come under the heading of Independents or "others".

Election reports and Peter Riddell, page 10
Graham Mather, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Most schools 'are cutting budgets'

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

TWO-THIRDS of state schools are having to cut their budgets in real terms, head teachers said yesterday as a classroom union spoke of thousands of jobs at risk.

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT), claimed that schools had been "robbed" of almost £300 million because they had not been compensated for inflation, rising pupil numbers and the teachers' pay increase. A wave of redundancies is expected later this month, when the deadline expires for notices to staff losing their jobs.

Governors have already decided to axe 2,500 teaching posts, according to the Association of Teachers and Lecturers. The union, which is one of three considering action over the impact of the cuts, fears that many more jobs will be lost in the coming weeks.

Out of 67 English local education authorities surveyed by the NAHT, 45 are implementing real-terms cuts in school budgets. Worst hit

are the counties with schools £258 million short of the amount they need to maintain current spending levels.

The survey bears out ministerial arguments that the financial picture is patchy. More than a quarter of authorities have increased their spending on schools in real terms.

But David Hart, NAHT's general secretary, said the results confirmed "dire" prospects overall. "This year's settlement has been described as 'tough but manageable'. But the survey proves this is simply not the case."

Cooper School in Bicester, Oxfordshire, is threatening to introduce a four-day-week next term because of budget cuts. The state secondary school is seeking further legal advice over a plan to put 380 first and second-year pupils on a shorter week. Governors insisted yesterday that the step was the only solution to a funding squeeze that made class sizes unmanageable.

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Crown to keep PM's papers

FUTURE Prime Ministers will be prevented from removing all but the most personal papers from Downing Street, the Cabinet Office confirmed yesterday (Nigel Williamson writes).

Downing Street said the rules had been revised by John Major in 1991. "It was not the result of one specific incident: it was just right for him to take a fresh look when he became Prime Minister," a spokeswoman said. The

announcement came as the row continued over the sale of the papers kept by Sir Winston Churchill on leaving office. However, it is believed that Downing Street was involved in the negotiations that led to a reduction in the price eventually paid for the Churchill papers by arguing that most of the items were not personal papers but official documents. Mr Major has assured MPs that no money was handed over for

state papers that formed part of the collection. A Cabinet Office spokeswoman said: "With the agreement of the present Prime Minister, only papers which are truly personal will in future be removed from official custody so that what is removed contains no official material other than that which, like copies of letters to members of the public, is already in the public domain."

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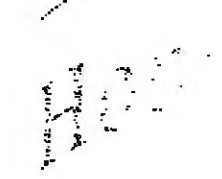
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1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list includes names such as "Mr. J. H. Smith", "Mr. W. H. Jones", and "Mr. R. H. Brown".

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Home Office aims to end waste of aborted trials

PROPOSALS to save thousands of pounds wasted in aborted Crown Court trials by taking away key decisions from magistrates in the early stages of proceedings are being drafted by Home Office officials.

Many costly Crown Court trials are halted at the last moment when the defendant suddenly pleads guilty. Officials are preparing a consultation paper that would give the justices' clerks — the chief lawyers and managers in Magistrates' Courts — far wider powers than they have at the moment, including the decision on which cases should go to trial by jury.

The new powers for the justices' clerks could also include authority

■ **Proposals to take much of the preparation of cases away from magistrates, leaving them free to decide guilt or innocence, are being devised by the Home Office, Frances Gibb reports**

to adjourn cases for further evidence to be obtained; the taking of a defendant's plea and varying bail conditions. The proposals, which have been put forward by the justices' clerks themselves, would free magistrates to deal with the central issues of guilt or innocence.

Government backing for the measures, which were proposed by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, was signalled by

Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney-General, when he addressed the justices' clerks at their annual conference in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, yesterday.

He said: "Without reaching a concluded view, or trespassing on the responsibilities of other departments and other ministers, I see merit in your examining these issues as part of the way ahead."

The proposals build on a system already in place for family and

child abuse cases, where justices' clerks act as the first port of call and then allocate cases to the appropriate level of court.

Peter Dawson, president of the 250-member Justices' Clerks' Society, said that the proposals would "discourage delay, inertia and avoidable cost to the public purse".

A working party including magistrates had been set up to look in to the whole issue and "substantial agreement has been reached", Mr Dawson said.

Sir Nicholas went on to give warning that the abolition of criminal proceedings later this month may cause fresh delays in the already over-burdened criminal justice system. He told the conference that the change would

mean that most criminal cases reached the Crown Court with no hearing in the Magistrates' Court.

Instead they would be dealt with by justices' clerks on the papers submitted. But he said that although few people would "mourn the demise of the old-style committal" in which witnesses were called and all the evidence rehearsed, the new paper-only committals would bring their own burdens. "The role of the clerk and his staff in maintaining the momentum of cases will be crucial," Sir Nicholas said.

"It is all too easy for cases, particularly those involving several defendants or where there are other related proceedings, to move at a pace dictated by the slowest of

the parties, whether it be prosecutor or a defendant."

Sir Nicholas urged courts, police and the Crown Prosecution Service to liaise if cases were not to be dropped unnecessarily and miscarriages of justice not to occur. "The idea that one part of the system should throw its weight about to teach another part a lesson is an approach that should be exercised with great discretion. It leads to cases that should have reached trial being discontinued. That is in its own individual way a miscarriage of justice."

■ The Government was criticised yesterday for failing to protect magistrates against having to pay costs when their rulings are overturned on appeal. Peter Dawson,

president of the Justices' Clerks' Society, said it was odd that apart from coroners, the only "judicial tribunals" that have to pay the costs of wrong decisions were unpaid lay magistrates. Several magistrates' benches have had rulings overturned in recent months, particularly on poll tax cases.

Mr Dawson said the Lord Chancellor's Department had produced a response that the society was now considering. But he said: "The response does not meet adequately the society's concerns."

Mr Dawson also criticised the Government for failing to provide magistrates' courts with details of new traffic legislation in time for them to apply it.

Barristers' six-figure claims 'indefensible'

Solicitors demand curbs on legal-aid fees for QCs

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE large fees paid to top barristers from legal-aid funds must end, the Law Society said yesterday. The society, professional body for 70,000 solicitors in England and Wales, called for tough controls on "indefensible" six-figure fees earned by Queen's Counsel doing legal-aid work and also for an end to the practice of legal-aid funds paying for two barristers to appear for one side in a hearing.

"Some QCs seem to be receiving excessive levels of income from legal aid," the Law Society said. "For example, a QC recently received over £600,000 for about two years' work on a case."

"Without regulations prescribing the level of fees, or any clear explanation of how a particular level of fee is justified, it is difficult for the Lord Chancellor to defend the level of QCs' fees," the society said.

Recent figures from the Lord Chancellor showed that 100 barristers received more than £100,000 (including VAT



Law Society wants to cut legal-aid waste

and travelling costs) from civil legal aid in 1993-94. The society's proposals are part of a package of suggested reforms aimed at curbing waste in the £1 billion legal-aid scheme, which is under review by the Lord Chancellor.

In a detailed paper sent to the Lord Chancellor, judges, consumer bodies and advice agencies, the society suggested that minor offences such as shoplifting need not go before the courts but could be handled like public transport fare cases. Legal aid could be saved if, in minor cases of dishonesty, people were given a penalty ticket that they had to pay

"without an implication that they have been dishonest". On legal-aid fees, the Law Society said barristers were not subject to the controls recently imposed by the Government.

Prescribed hourly rates were set for all kinds of work and standard fees — of paying lawyers a set fee by type of case rather than hours worked — had been brought in for criminal work and were coming in soon for civil and family work. But barristers' fees were not subject to the same close control.

Some prescribed fees were set for junior counsel but there was very wide discretion to exceed them, the society said. "In the Crown Court the maximum fee is exceeded in around 50 per cent of cases."

The controls on QCs' fees were even weaker, with no prescribed scales in civil or matrimonial work. Barristers were paid instead at market rates, largely what barristers' clerks chose to claim, the society said.

The society's onslaught coincides with a survey in the magazine *Legal Business* on high-earning QCs who, it

estimates, could be earning more than £1 million a year from private legal fees.

The top five are George Carman, one of the best-known silks in Britain and leading criminal and libel QC; Anthony Grabiner, described as probably the most expensive silk in the world; Christopher Clarke; Sydney Kentridge and Jonathan Sumption.

It is the top legal-aid earners who could be hit under the Law Society reforms. The society proposes making solicitors responsible for negotiating the fees of counsel they instruct, instead of the barristers claiming directly. "This would benefit the legal-aid fund by providing some incentive for solicitors to control counsel's fees."

Other proposals include: savings in legal aid in personal injury cases by more use of "no win, no fee"; separate cash limits for test cases on points of principle to limit spending on multiparty actions; unclear laws to be reformed; costly fraud prosecutions to be reserved for cases of clear dishonesty and others dealt with by civil penalties.



Michael Beloff, QC: hourly rate £350 to £400; refresher rate £2,000 to £2,500; brief fee (initial fee for taking on a case): he is said to have charged £10,000 for a recent three-day application.



Anthony Boswood, QC: hourly rate £350 to £400; refresher rate £2,500; brief fee for a recent 26-week trial Boswood charged a brief fee of £350,000 plus daily refresher of £2,500.



George Carman, QC: hourly rate at least £500; brief fee in 1993 he reportedly charged £25,000 for a one-week trial. A recent two-to-three week trial netted him £45,000 before refresher.



Tony Grabiner, QC: hourly rate £650 (may have been £500 on Eurotunnel); refresher rate £3,000; brief fee: a 40-minute hearing with one day's preparation recently earned him £3,000.



Sydney Kentridge, QC: will not work to an hourly rate, so hard to assess, but could be up to £800 an hour; refresher rate £4,000; brief fee big contempt case estimated to have brought him £100,000.



Jonathan Sumption, QC: hourly rate £500 but can be less; refresher rate £2,500 to £3,000; brief fee "not too extortionate"; a recent 12-week case brought him between £150,000 and £200,000.

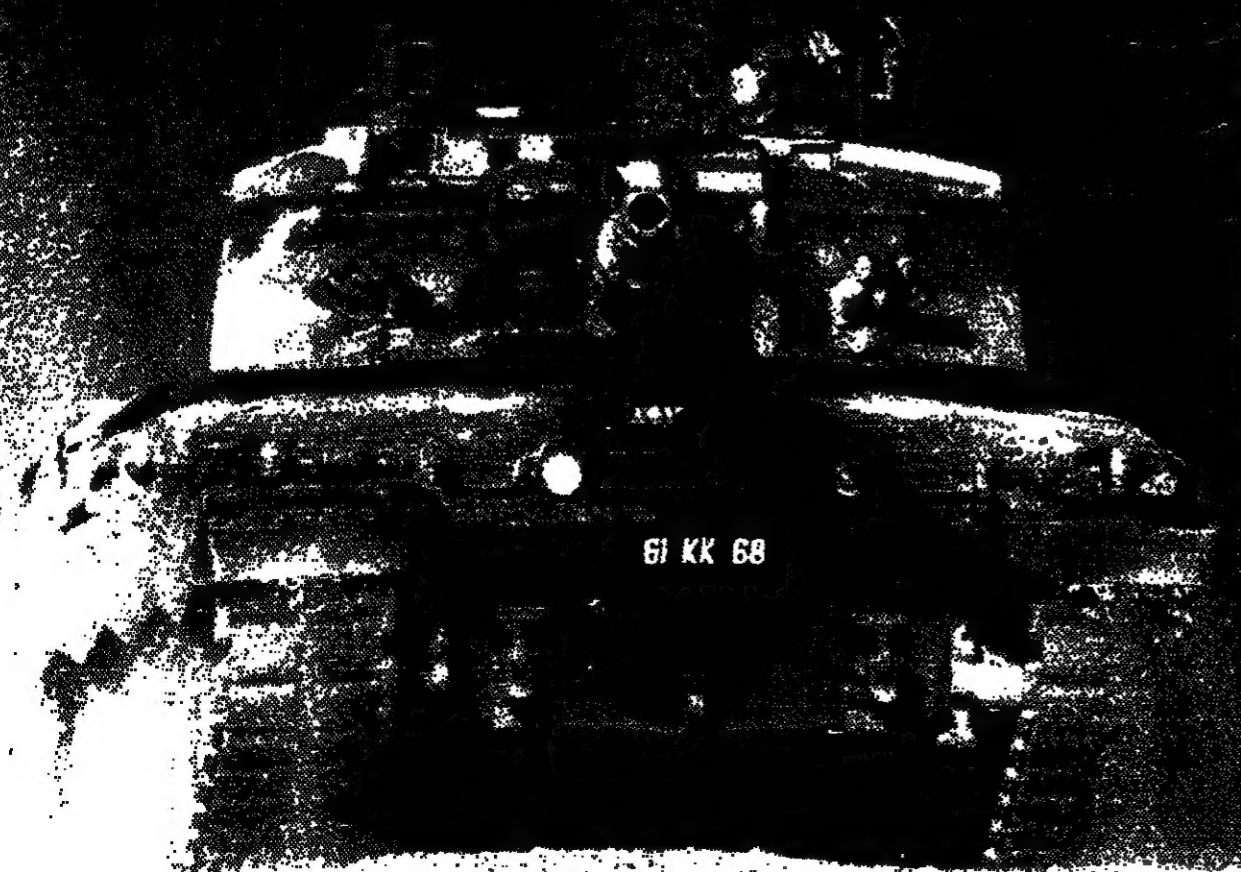


Gordon Pollock, QC: hourly rate £500; refresher rate £2,500 to £3,000; brief fee reportedly sought £350,000 for a two-month trial but client "declined to take him up on that".



Peter Scott, QC: hourly rate £500; refresher £2,500; brief fee for a five-hour hearing involving about 10 hours' preparation he was said to have earned £9,000. Thought to earn £1 million annually.

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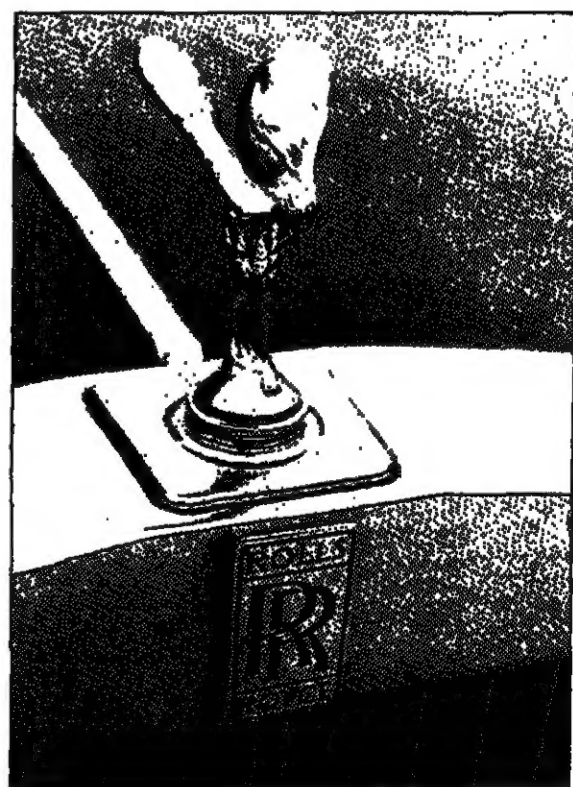
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Profit Increase: Automotive grouping profits doubled in 1994 to £21m.

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Rifkind predicts increasing role for British troops as world trouble spots proliferate

Government rules out further cuts in Armed Forces

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ALL the "big decisions" to cut the Armed Forces after the end of the Cold War have now been taken and further reductions have been ruled out, according to the Government's Defence White Paper, published yesterday.

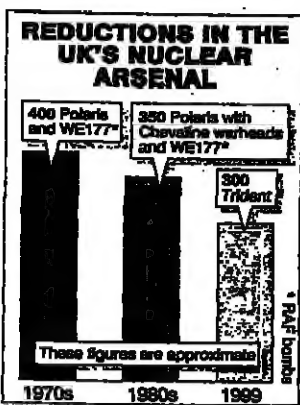
Last year, more than 11,000 Royal Navy, Army and RAF personnel were made redundant. By April 1 next year it is planned that the Armed Forces will be down to 231,500 - 48,000 in the Navy, 117,000 in the Army and 66,500 in the RAF.

These figures represent a considerable reduction in the estimates in last year's White Paper, when it was stated that by April 1 this year there would be 241,000 personnel.

The White Paper, entitled *Stable Forces in a Strong Britain*, stated: "There will be no cuts to our frontline, even if our commitments reduce."

With the promise of a period of stability for the three forces, the Government is ready to offer the services of what Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, described yesterday as Britain's "world-class Armed Forces" to tackle the peacekeeping commitments that are expected to proliferate during the next few years.

In the week when 650 British troops have set off for a peacekeeping mission in An-



gola, and there are renewed fears for the safety of the 3,400 soldiers serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the White Paper said the Government expected to see "growing calls on the United Kingdom to support conflict resolution, peacekeeping and humanitarian aid missions".

However, any decision to contribute soldiers will depend on whether there are "clear and achievable objectives" and whether the mandate for the operation is "precise and finite".

The Armed Forces will also continue to train and equip for participating in high-intensity wars. Capable all-round forces were still needed, the White Paper said. To that end, Mr Rifkind announced that a new permanent joint forces headquarters, capable of mastering every type of con-

lict, would begin operating by April 1 next year at Northwood, the present site of the Royal Navy's fleet headquarters on the outskirts of west London.

The White Paper warned that although the era of ideological confrontation with the former Soviet Union was gone, "it would be imprudent to write off entirely the possibility that a strategic threat could re-emerge".

Dismissing Labour's constant call for a full defence review, Mr Rifkind said the Government had now delivered what had been promised five years ago when the Options for Change defence study led to proposals for substantial cuts in manpower and equipment. The promise was for smaller but better equipped Armed Forces.

With a substantial re-equipment programme well under way, the White Paper highlighted further orders for advanced systems that would be partly paid for out of savings achieved during last year's Frontline First review, that cut support services.

Mr Rifkind said the new systems would include a substantial upgrade to the communications systems used by the Navy's submarines, and modernisation of the Royal Engineers' specialised equipment, such as mobile bridges, so that they could be mounted on the hulls of the new Challenger 2 tank.

The White Paper emphasised the reduction in Britain's nuclear forces. The number of operational nuclear warheads will have been cut by 21 per cent since the 1970s "to fewer than 300" by 1999, when four Vanguard class submarines armed with Trident ballistic missiles will represent the sole deterrent in Britain's nuclear armory.

Statement on the Defence Estimates 1995 (HMSO, £12.80)



Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, announcing this year's estimates for defence manpower yesterday

MoD confident that safety measures would cope with nuclear accident

BY MICHAEL EVANS

AN INSIGHT into how the Government would handle a nuclear accident in Britain is detailed for the first time in the Government's Defence White Paper.

Although the risk from nuclear weapons and reactors is described as very small, civil and military agencies regularly rehearse how they would respond in an emergency. Last year the Ministry of Defence held two major exercises, 13 medium ones and more than 50 minor drills, each involving members of the Royal Navy and RAF nuclear accident response organisations.

In April, a full-scale field training exercise, codenamed *Diver Mist*, was mounted in Suffolk. The aim was to test how British emergency services would work with the Americans if a US warhead was involved. The premise for the four-day exercise, in which 1,400 took

part, was that an aircraft carrying nuclear weapons had crashed.

The other big exercise last year, codenamed *Short Sermon*, simulated a nuclear reactor accident on a Royal Navy submarine in Portsmouth naval base. In one of the smaller nuclear exercises, a vehicle carrying nuclear weapons in a road convoy was involved in an accident.

The White Paper said there were strict procedures for the storage, transport and handling of nuclear weapons and the operation of reactors. An independent overview was provided by a number of organisations, including the Nuclear Powered Warships Safety Committee and the Nuclear Weapon Safety Committee.

In the event of a nuclear accident, safeguarding the public and MoD employees would be the main priority. The MoD would deploy a range of specialised response forces, including

technical experts able to deal with the reactor or weapon involved, radiation monitoring forces to determine the spread of contamination, and health and safety experts to advise the public.

By the end of the decade, the Ministry of Defence will handle only Trident nuclear systems, totalling about 300 warheads. The RAF's 100 WE177 nuclear bombs are being scrapped by 1998 and all other previous British nuclear weapons, including naval nuclear depth bombs and Lance ground-based missiles, have already been axed.

The White Paper said there had never been an accident involving British nuclear weapons or submarine reactors which had posed any hazard to the public. The MoD was confident that the stringent safety procedures, "coupled with the safety of our nuclear weapons and reactor designs", would continue to prevent any accidents.

Coroner says fuel leak led to deaths of cadets

A CORONER yesterday blamed a faulty petrol cap for the fire which burnt to death two Oxford students after an accident.

The inquest jury returned verdicts of misadventure on the two Army cadets. David Masters, the Wiltshire coroner, said that Karen Buttershaw, 19, and her best friend, Rebecca Norris, 20, had died as a result of burns when their Army Land-Rover burst into flames, because the petrol cap had not been properly fitted.

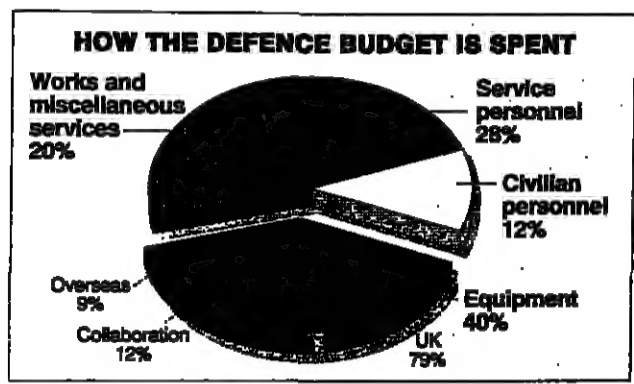
The vehicle had rolled backwards down a hill, somersaulted and caught fire on a training exercise on Salisbury Plain last October.

Mr Masters said at the hearing in Salisbury: "It is clear the cause of death in reality was the petrol cap coming off the Land-Rover, allowing the petrol to escape and then ignite."

Sergeant Major Trevor Beardsmore, who was in charge of the 40 cadets and eight officers taking part in the exercise, tried desperately to drag the women free but was beaten back by the flames. His heroism was praised by Mr Masters.

The jury had been told that that Miss Buttershaw, who was driving the vehicle, had not passed her driving test and that Sergeant Major Beardsmore did not have the up-to-date instruction qualifications.

Mr Masters called on a review panel and board of inquiry to look at the circumstances under which an unqualified driver should be permitted to drive an Army vehicle; when such a driver should be permitted to drive an Army vehicle without a supervising instructor present; the type of fire extinguisher carried; the provision of communication equipment in the event of an emergency; the advisability of using diesel fuel Land-Rovers in such exercises; the use of a checklist; and regulations regarding qualifications of off-road Army driving instructors.



Amateur rocket cleared for liftoff

BY NICK NUTTALL

AN AMATEUR rocket engineer has been given the go-ahead to launch a sugar-powered spacecraft more than two miles into the sky above mid-Wales.

Steve Bennett, 35, a laboratory technician from Manchester, has been given approval by the police, the Civil Aviation Authority and the Health and Safety Executive.

He has been working on his "Starchaser" rocket for several years and claims the 10ft craft will travel at 900ft a second and has a range of six miles.

Mr Bennett, a devoted fan of the television puppet series *Thunderbirds*, said yesterday: "I'm absolutely thrilled. I had to get through a lot of red tape. There's virtually no air traffic, power cables or buildings at the site chosen. After this my ultimate ambition is to send a rocket 50 miles into space."

He plans to launch the rocket later this month at Sam Powys. If all goes to plan it will fly two and a half miles and parachute down to be recovered. In case things don't go to plan, Mr Bennett has been obliged to take out a hefty insurance policy.

Alan Bond, inventor of the engines that would have powered Britain's first space plane, *Hotol*, said last night that amateur enthusiasts in America had launched rockets with sugar propellants.

Help for thalidomide victims

Guinness gives extra £37m to bolster compensation

BY JEREMY LAURANCE AND ANDREW PIERCE

VICTIMS of the drug thalidomide who have lived for 30 years with their deformities are to receive millions of pounds in extra compensation.

The 458 survivors of the tragedy, who were born in the early 1960s without arms and legs, are to share extra funding worth £37.5 million over the next 15 years. The money is being made available by Guinness, which took over the Distillers company whose subsidiary made thalidomide.

The drug was given to pregnant women in the 1960s to stop morning sickness but it caused thousands of deformities in Britain, Germany and Australia. The extra funds will be handed to the Thalidomide Trust, the charity that supports victims in Britain. The trust, which makes annual payments of between £2,000 and £19,000 to survivors depending on their degree of disability, gave warning last year that it would run out of money by 2009 unless its capital was increased.

The trust was set up in 1973 with £22 million from Distillers, which denied liability, and £6 million from the Government. It has paid out £57 million in the past 22 years and has £62 million remaining. Last year and this year it was forced for the first time to eat into capital to maintain its

annual payments of £5 million. Earlier this year it announced it was freezing payments at existing levels for two years.

Thalidomide victims, now in their early 30s, have survived longer than doctors expected, and their needs are growing. About a dozen have died since the trust started making payments. Some of those most severely affected set up the Thalidomide Action Group and staged a hunger strike last year to press Guinness and the Government for more help.

Last January they began buying shares in Guinness and planned to lobby the company's annual meeting on



Victim: Freddie Astbury

May 18. Last night they vowed to continue to fight for more financial aid. Freddie Astbury, 35, Britain's second oldest thalidomide victim, said: "Of course we are grateful for every penny we receive but until today we were the forgotten people. Unfortunately for the authorities the thalidomide children grew up. People thought we were millionaires because of the compensation our parents received but this is not the case."

The extra funds from Guinness will be paid in annual donations of £2.5 million to the Thalidomide Trust over the next 15 years, equivalent to more than £5,000 a year extra for each beneficiary.

However, David Simpson, administrator of the trust, said there would be only "modest" increases in payments to the victims. "We have got to look to the future, to extend the period over which we can make payments," he said.

Tony Greener, chairman of Guinness, said: "The Thalidomide Trust has provided responsible and caring support for the beneficiaries over the past 22 years and we want to make sure that, with extra financial support, they will continue to be able to do so. We hope that the Government will now be encouraged to consider further help for the beneficiaries."

Dimbleby seeks ban on bland houses

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN to end the bland, featureless, house-building that blights many pretty towns and villages is launched today by conservationists, writers and actors.

The broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby, who is president of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), is urging the Government to use its rural White Paper to end the damage that mass-produced computer-designed buildings inflict on the countryside.

"We have allowed the bulk of recent development, particularly housing, to leech the distinctiveness from rural towns and villages across the country," he said. Mr Dimbleby called on local authorities and community groups fiercely to resist "off-the-peg" property

schemes whose roofs, bricks and windows owe little to the landscapes in which they stand.

The campaigners instead want "dialect" and a sense of place restored to the regions by restoring the cob and thatch cottage-style to Devon, timber-framed houses in Essex and the West Midlands, and flint in north Norfolk. "Future generations deserve a countryside enhanced rather than impoverished by new development," Mr Dimbleby said.

The CPRE's campaign is being backed by the dramatist Alan Bennett. "My bugbear in North Yorkshire is new doors on old houses of the Kentucky Fried Georgian variety, new picture windows and badly converted barns stained a depressing dark brown," he said.

Sir Roy Strong, the former director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, said

yesterday: "Whether we are in Norfolk or Cornwall the buildings are of an homogenised mediocrity. We urgently need a new rural architecture which will give us back what has been so savagely eroded, a sense of place."

The CPRE is making 28 recommendations to the Government, local authorities and builders to secure better designs in new rural developments. Those include policies to wean developers from "pattern books" and more powers for councils to reject planning applications on the design alone.

In its campaigning booklet, *Local Attraction*, the council praises some local authorities for insisting that new buildings echo historic designs, including thatch, stone and slate roofs. A development at South Creak, Norfolk, is praised for enhancing the village, as are new cottages at Abbotsbury, Dorset.

Generalitat de Catalunya
Autonomous Government of Catalonia

VII PREMI INTERNACIONAL CATALUNYA 1995

Vaclav Havel

Richard von Weizsaecker

for the ethical dimension of their political careers.

The Generalitat de Catalunya awards the Premi Internacional Catalunya through the Institut Catala d'Estudis Mediterranis. It is endowed with 50,000 ECU's and a bronze sculpture. It is awarded annually to those persons whose work has made a decisive contribution to the development of cultural, scientific or human values around the world. The candidatures are presented by academies, centres of culture or investigation from all over the world.

The winners of the award to date have been: 1989: Karl R. Popper, philosopher; 1990: Albert Sabin, physicist; 1991: Jacques-Yves Cousteau, oceanographer; 1992: Mstislav Rostropovich, cellist; 1993: Luigi Einaudi, Cavaliere di Gran Croce, geneticist; 1994: Edgar Morin, sociologist.

THE JURY: Jordi Pujol, President of the Catalan Government. Shlomo Ben Ami, historian. Tel Aviv University. Enric Arguñol, Rector of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Barcelona. Ricard Bofill, architect. Barcelona. Abdelwahab Bouhdiba, sociologist. Tunis. Xavier Bru de Sala, writer. Barcelona. Umberto Colombo, physical chemist. Rome. Georges Duby, historian. Aix-en-Provence. Nuria Espert, actress and theatre director. Madrid. Tahar Ben Jelloun, novelist. Tangier. Hugues de Jouvanel, prospectivist. Paris. Massimo Livi-Bacci, demographer. Florence. Andreu Mas Colell, economist. Harvard University. Federico Mayor Zaragoza, director general of UNESCO. Simon Nora, financier. Paris. Joan Oró, biochemist. University of Houston. Baltasar Porcel, writer. Majorca. Mstislav Rostropovich, cellist. Moscow. Hugh Thomas, historian. London. Gustavo Villalobos, Rector of the Universidad Complutense. Madrid.

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Germans cheer as Prince honours Hamburg's dead

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN HAMBURG

THE Prince of Wales plunged into the sensitive German debate over how to celebrate the end of the war yesterday with a loudly applauded opening speech that underlined the horror of the Allied bombing raids on Hamburg.

"What was inflicted on Hamburg was the horror of the world war which released destruction on a scale the world had never seen before," Prince Charles told a crowd of some 20,000 crammed into the square in front of the City Hall where, 50 years ago, Hamburg formally surrendered to British troops.

The anniversary, he stressed in a speech largely delivered in German, was an occasion "to mourn the dead on both sides". The Germans have been ferociously debating whether the end of the war should be remembered as a liberation from Nazi rule, or a specifically German tragedy that led to the expulsion of millions of Germans from their homes in Eastern Europe, and the almost 50-year division of the country.

The Prince did not take sides but he made a point of acknowledging the German right to mourn their dead. After laying a wreath at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, where row upon row of chalk-white crosses mark the graves of servicemen from the Welsh and Scots Guards, the Gordon Highlanders and the Pioneer Corps, as well as airmen from the British, Canadian and Australian air forces, the Prince moved on to an area where German victims of the bombing raids were buried.

These are mass graves, small mounds marked by signs showing each afflicted district of Hamburg. The Prince and his party, including Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, having paid tribute to the bombing victims, studiously avoided the thousands of graves of German soldiers. There was no escape though from raw German sensitivity.



As the Prince arrived at the cemetery, a 56-year-old Hamburg poet Helmut Sandvoß held up a placard denouncing the British monument to Sir Arthur Harris in the Strand in London. "The Prince is a fair and decent man but his grandmother honoured this butcher who ordered the killing of 48,000 of our people in Hamburg," he said. As a child, he saw "huns scattering for cover during a British air raid with no hole to hide in, blown to smithereens on the street".

Other Hamburg citizens in the crowd criticised the protest but a few expressed agreement. "He's basically correct but he shouldn't forget the great job that the British did for us after the war," said one middle-aged man. On the podium in front of the City

Hall, Prince Charles was preceded by 82-year-old Hellmut Kalbitzer, who was sent to a concentration camp for his socialist opposition to Hitler and the Nazis. Herr Kalbitzer made clear that he had no time for those German politicians and historians who equated German suffering during and after the war with the atrocities committed by the Nazis.

"Historians and their publicists are trying to suggest that Germany's post-war suffering and the division into occupation zones is the great German tragedy. They are confusing the causes of war with its effects, which does nothing more or less than provide right-wing ideological fodder for the skinheads."

Dr Henning Voscherau, a survivor of the camps and mayor of Hamburg, made plain that the German surrender should be regarded unambiguously, as a form of liberation. Herr Kalbitzer recalled standing in the same main square on May 5 surrounded by former slave labourers from different countries, each singing his own national anthem and waving improvised flags.

"I was very lonely — a German among celebrating victors. I wanted to celebrate too, but as a German I could not forget that we Germans would have to clean away the rubble left by the Nazis."

All speakers praised the postwar British administration of the city. Prince Charles referred to the setting up of a new democratic press and radio network by the British occupying authorities in Hamburg, but stressed that it was the Germans themselves who had made proper use of their new freedom.

"While armies can remove dictators, they cannot impose freedom. That has to come from within, from the people themselves." At this point thousands of Hamburgers started to clap, cheer and wave paper Union Jacks.

Matthew Parris, page 2
Diary, page 20
Letters, page 21
Photograph, page 24
Books, pages 38, 39



The Prince and the Mayor lay wreaths



Norman Kirby, who was on Montgomery's security staff from D-Day to VE-Day, at home in Wembley, northwest London, yesterday

Monty's men recall moment of surrender

BY JOHN YOUNG

ON THIS DAY 50 years ago General Hans Kintzel and Grand Admiral Hans von Friedeburg surrendered to Field Marshal Montgomery on Lüneburg Heath, south of Hamburg. The previous day they had arrived unannounced at Montgomery's headquarters as emissaries of Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, Hitler's successor as Chancellor, who had hoped to be able to hand over all his forces in northern Europe to the British rather than to the Russians.

Montgomery sent them back to Dönitz in Flensburg with the message that he could accept the surrender only of those troops facing his own 21st Army Group. Otherwise, he said: "I shall go on fighting and I will be delighted to do so. All your soldiers will be killed."

Among those who witnessed the final events were Norman Kirby and Anthony Ponomarev, British Army sergeants who spoke German and were on the security staff at Montgomery's tactical headquarters. Mr Kirby, as he relates in *1100 Miles with Monty* (recently reissued by Alan Sutton Publishing £9.99) was with the field marshal all the way from the Normandy landings to the plains of north Germany.

By the time Kintzel and von



Sergeant Kirby with Montgomery in the final stages of the war

Friedeburg returned on the evening of May 4, Montgomery was in a better mood, Mr Kirby recalls. "At approximately 10pm the chief himself came out of his caravan and, crossing over to the marquee... seated himself at the table to get the feel of it. He looked all around him... beaming with obvious satisfaction."

The Germans paraded under the Union Jack and strode across the heather to the marquee, surrounded

by some 40 radio and newspaper correspondents.

A minute or two later Montgomery, in battle dress and beret, entered the tent, greeted at the assembled press and turned to face the Germans, who saluted smartly and waited until he was seated before sitting down themselves. In clear, crisp tones he read out the surrender terms. "The Germans," according to Mr Kirby, "sat with mask-like faces

as they listened to the words which sealed the fate of their land, sea and air forces in Holland and northwest Germany, including all islands, and Denmark. After each of the Germans had signed in turn, Field Marshal Montgomery said: "Now I will sign on behalf of the Supreme Commander, General Eisenhower." The tent flaps were lowered and Monty was alone with his former enemies.

Mr Ponomarev had been out of camp but was summoned back in case he was needed. "I think I spoke better German than anyone else, though it was not perfect by any means. I was quicker than anyone else and I grabbed the pen which Monty used and the blotting paper which, oddly enough, bears the wrong date, May 5 instead of May 4. I still have both," he said yesterday.

The next day he was ordered to accompany Major Friedl, Kintzel's aide, to Flensburg to find if Colonel General Alfred Jodl, German Chief of Staff, had any particular requests. Jodl saluted me, a sergeant, with his field marshal's baton and instinctively we shook hands. Later when I told some Germans I was Jewish, they couldn't believe that Jews could serve in the British Army. Jodl was executed for war crimes but pardoned posthumously.

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Labour and Lib Dems decry landslide forecast

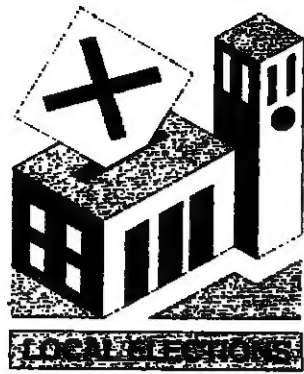
By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR and the Liberal Democrats were striving yesterday to play down expectations of big gains in today's local elections as all the parties fired the final shots of their campaigns.

Officials from both parties claimed that the Tories were over-exaggerating their poor prospects so that they can claim to have done less badly than expected. Some polls have predicted that the Tories will lose up to 2,000 seats today, although 1,000 is a more likely figure.

According to a leaked briefing paper, Labour considers its support to be weak in the areas where the elections are being held. The elections exclude Scotland and London, and cover only a third of seats in large cities. Almost 8,000 of the 12,000 seats being contested are in small towns or rural areas, which traditionally are Tory or Liberal Democrat supporting. "This is Labour's least fertile territory," the briefing says.

At the last round of pre-election press conferences yesterday, Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, would go no further than saying that Labour will end up with more councils and councillors than before. He emphasised that Labour was starting from a high base, after winning record local government support in previous elections, and had never won more than 490 seats in a local election.



LOCAL ELECTIONS

"Further record gains of this magnitude on top of our present record standing would be remarkable," he said. "Labour cannot expect to match our standing in the national opinion polls, which include Scotland and London where there are no elections and the metropolitan areas where only some 800 seats are up for election this time."

He said that voters would register their "rejection of this enfeebled, incompetent and dishonest Government and support local Labour candidates".

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that his party, which holds 4,593 seats, could win enough to reach 5,000 but it was nonsense to say that it would end up with more councillors than the Tories, who have 7,473 seats. "It is simply not possible," he said. However, the Liberal Democrats do predict that they will win control of more councils than the Tories.

Mr Ashdown also predicted widespread voter cynicism and gave warning of a "crisis" as people became disillusioned with the political process. "The prevailing mood out there is yes, of course, anger with the Tories, but there is a very strong mood of 'a plague on all your houses'," he said. "My hunch from knocking on doors is that ...

this election is going to be the withdrawal from the ballot box."

Even if the Tories lose no more than 1,000 seats, the drubbing could still put Jeremy Hanley's position as chairman of the Tory party in doubt. Many in the party have criticised him for running a shaky campaign marked by gaffes and persistent negative attacks on Labour's local government record.

Mr Hanley said yesterday that he was perfectly happy to be judged by his leadership of the campaign. "There's a lot more, of course, to being party chairman than just one campaign, but I am perfectly happy to be judged on the way I have fought this campaign and brought the record of Conservative councils to the public's attention."

Mr Hanley rejected Labour and Liberal Democrat accusations that the Government had been reduced to shambles, not least over the climbdown over its policy to tax mortgage protection insurance.

Graham Mather, page 20
Leading article, page 21

COUNCILS WHERE CONSERVATIVES ARE VULNERABLE TO LABOUR	% swing needed
DARTFORD, WARRICK, SEDGEMOOR, THAMES, WYRE	1
DAVENTRY, SOUTH RIBLE	2
BELLINGHAM, BROXTON, EAST NORTHANTS, LICHFIELD	3
HINKLEY AND BOSWORTH, TRAFFORD	4
BROMSGROVE, CHARNWOOD	5
BRACON, FOREST	6
BRECKLAND, CHERWELL	7
CASTLE FORT, BLAY	8
ASHFORD	9
GEOLING	10
SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE	11
SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	12
RUSHCLIFFE, SPELTHORPE	13

COUNCILS WHERE CONSERVATIVES ARE VULNERABLE TO LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	% swing needed
TANDRIDGE, CHELMSFORD, CHRISTCHURCH, HAMBLETON, HANSDOROUGH	1
DERBYSHIRE DALES, EAST DORSET, EAST RISING, SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE, SALISBURY	2
ANDRUSSET, NORTH WESTSOMERSET	3
EAST DEVON, NISLEVALLEY, UTILESFORD	4
AFRIN	5
WEALDON	6
HORSHAM	7
	8

COUNCILS WHERE COMBINED SWING TO LABOUR AND DEMOCRATS WOULD TOPP CONSERVATIVES	% swing needed
WYCHAVON	1
ST EDMUNDSBURY, SALE OF WHITE HORSE, MELTON, WYCOMBE	2
DACORUM, SUFFOLK COASTAL	3
TOWERSIDE AND MALLING	4
HOVE, WORKINGHAM	5
WORKINGHAM, RUSHMOOR	6
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	7
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Where the swing in support will count

By IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

THE Tories face a near wipe-out in today's local elections, with the latest opinion polls showing they will lose all but a few of the 65 authorities they control outright in England.

There has been a 12 per cent swing to Labour and a 2 per cent swing to the Liberal Democrats since 1991 when these same seats were contested. On that showing the Tories will do well to hang on to more than a dozen councils.

The Tories, who failed to win control anywhere in Scotland last month, are also unlikely to take any of the 22 new unitary authorities in Wales or the 14 in England.

The Liberal Democrats are poised to capture the Isle of Wight, which this month becomes the first of the unitary authorities to go into service.

The Tories' best hope is that middle-class support for "new Labour" will split the anti-government protest vote, which tends to go to the Liberal Democrats between general elections.

Defeated Tories will face severe damage to morale

Local elections are interpreted almost entirely in terms of their national implications — for the standing of the Government and for the future of the Prime Minister. These issues will obviously dominate the headlines over the next few days. But the most lasting impact of today's polls could, appropriately, be local rather than national — on control of the town halls and on the morale, and membership, of constituency parties.

The map of local government in England and Wales will change substantially. Everywhere outside London will be voting since this is the one year in the four-year cycle when all seats are up in mainly rural councils, as well as a third of the seats on more urban local authorities. In addition, 14 of the new shadow unitary councils are being elected. After big losses over the past few years, the Tories only control one of the 36 metropolitan districts (Trafford) and, outright, 68 of the 274 non-mets, the heartlands of Tory England.

As David Cowling, ITN's political analyst, has pointed out, the potential for Tory losses are much greater this year than in 1994. Because of the pattern of voting, three-quarters of the Tory councillors defending seats today are from authorities with all-out elections, who have, so far, escaped the party's post-1992 slump. The party suffered big losses, 827 seats and control of 40 councils, when these seats were last contested in 1991. But that now looks almost a high point. Even a repetition of last year's metropolitan district results in the non-mets would result in huge losses. The Tories could lose control of nine councils if they lose just one seat on these authorities, and a further 12 with the loss of two or three seats.

It is a nonsense to extrapolate the precise results to a general election which could still be two years away. In that respect, it does not matter whether the Tories lose 1,000, 1,500 or 2,000 seats. It is a good bet that several parliamentary seats where no Tory councillors are elected

HIDDELL ON POLITICS

today will re-elect their Tory MP. But few MPs will be sure of that. There is nothing more certain to induce panic in an MP than the election of Opposition councillors.

More significant, however, is that the defeated Tory councillors will be among the most prominent people in their local parties. They are likely to blame disarray in national government rather than the record of their local councils. Defeated and disillusioned councillors may consequently reduce their level of activity in their local parties. This sense of failure may in turn discourage newcomers from joining, reinforcing the decay of the Tory organisation at a local level.

Low morale among party activists is one of the most serious problems facing the Tories. By contrast, widespread gains will give a further boost to Labour and the Liberal Democrats locally. This outcome will underline how the Liberal Democrats have a continued role locally despite the Blair phenomenon nationally.

The results will mean that most of local government at a district as well as a county level, will be under the sole or shared control of the Opposition parties. Although the days of confrontation between central and local government are over — and John Gummer has no wish to revive them — there is bound to be pressure to increase public spending. On that, at least, the Tory campaign has been right. But these issues should be a matter for local residents. There is no reason why the spending/tax mix should be the same everywhere. The perverse result of years of Whitehall attempts to shackle local councils has been to undermine the Tories' local base and to create a new opposition in town halls throughout the country. The Tories will increasingly look a rump holding onto office, if not power, at Westminster.

PETER RIDDELL

National scores to be settled locally

By KATE ALDERSON

THE humiliating prospect of losing control of Trafford Council, the last Conservative metropolitan council outside London, is almost too much for Councillor Patrick Myers to contemplate.

"Thursday could prove to be one of the most embarrassing days for us," he said, while canvassing in Halebarns, a wealthy village to the far south of the Manchester borough. "This ward, this whole area, should be solidly Tory but a lot of our life-long supporters are deserting us."

Trafford Council has been convincingly Conservative for 19 of the past 21 years and today it has a slender Tory majority of seven.

Canvassers from the Conservative camp show an 8-10 per cent swing against

them; a swing of 6 per cent will end Conservative control, one of 13 per cent would turn it over to Labour.

Another Hale councillor, Marilyn Lucas, is also enthusiastically knocking on doors. Winston Churchill was one of the borough's MPs, she said. "Yes! Thank you very much Mr Churchill!" The unpopularity of the MP after last week's announcement that he was to receive £12.5 million of lottery money for his grandfather's papers had done little to help the Conservative cause, she said.

"People are telling us that they will vote us out, destroy the flag, to teach the Government a lesson," she said. "It appears that our head must be on the block despite all of our achievements."

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Labour to set out its policies on health, crime, education and the economy Blair promises to scrap NHS market

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR promised yesterday that a Labour government would abolish GP fundholding and the NHS internal market and reorganise local education authorities.

The Labour leader showed that he intended to move on sharply from internal reforms within the party with a new policy programme designed for "the mainstream majority in Britain".

He said that he had asked every member of the Shadow Cabinet to review their programme in the light of Labour's new statement of aims and values, agreed last weekend. "We are now free to think the unthinkable, to embrace new and exciting ideas, to see the pace of change not as a threat from which we shrink but as an opportunity to shape our nation's future."

Six policy papers are expected to be published over the next three months on the economy, health, crime, education, the information superhighway and regional government.

After the success in changing Clause Four, Labour could now move on to "construct a new policy agenda for Britain that moves beyond some of the old policy dividing lines between Left and Right", Mr Blair said.

Next month Margaret Beckett, the Shadow Health Secretary, will publish a document detailing Labour's plans to

scrap GP fundholding, which the party claims has led to a two-tier system in the NHS. She is expected to propose that all GPs be given a greater say in health provision by working more closely with district health authorities. But Labour will ditch the system of separate budgets for GPs, one of the key elements of the NHS reforms.

Mr Blair said that Labour would make their boards more accountable. Mrs Beckett is expected to propose having their members chosen by election.

Mr Blair said: "We will replace the two-tier system of GP fundholding with a new partnership offering excellence for all, and to bring democracy to hospital trusts. We will apply the traditional values of the NHS to the modern challenges of high patient expectations, technological change and an ageing population."

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary will publish a paper next month that will include Labour's proposals for grant-maintained schools. The central funding agency for GM schools will be abolished, but Labour is expected to keep them within "a new democratic framework".

Mr Blair also signalled that Labour will ensure that local education authorities are made more accountable for services they provide. "We will



shake up LEAs," he said. "Instead of controlling schools as in the past, they should be judged by their success in raising standards. We will offer greater say to parents in planning and delivery of schooling." Labour's approach was about combining

support for schools "with pressure on them to achieve".

Over the next few weeks Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, will make three main speeches setting out Labour's economic policy. These will flesh out Labour's plans to improve macro-economic

stability, boosting investment in people, infrastructure and industry, and reforming the welfare state to help people into work.

Next month Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, will publish a paper on local-police partnership to fight crime. Mr

Blair said: "We will show how community partnership can reclaim the streets for people who live there. We will put the law on the side of the ordinary person rather than lawyers and propose new ways of settling disputes before they get to court."

Superstore defends cut-price book offer

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE supermarket chain Asda defended its right to break the price-fixing Net Book Agreement when it gave evidence to a Commons inquiry yesterday.

Denise Jagger, Asda company secretary and corporate counsel, told the National Heritage Select Committee: "The consumer wants cheaper books and we're interested in the consumer."

The inquiry into the NBA coincided with Asda's decision to put John Le Carré's latest novel, *Our Game*, on sale at half price this week. The book is the first popular novel to be published outside the NBA, used by major publishers since the beginning of the century.

Several MPs expressed fears that small booksellers could be forced out of business. Michael Fabricant (C, Mid-Staffordshire) said that many were already crippled by high rents and would be unable to negotiate better discounts without taking larger orders.

Ms Jagger, however, insisted that Asda was selling to customers who would not buy from specialist bookshops and was therefore making books accessible to a wider public. The damage to authors and booksellers has been "grossly overstated".

Minister seeks end to Tunnel dispute

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRIAN Mawhinney demanded tougher action last night to break the deadlock between Britain and France over Channel Tunnel safety inspection.

British safety experts have criticised the continued failure of French authorities to allow British safety inspectors equal access to the French half of the tunnel. Only a system of "double badging" — in which inspectors from each country have full inspection rights — would allow the best quality of inspection, they say.

The Transport Secretary told MPs that he had ordered a detailed report from British officials on progress towards common inspection rights. He pledged to take up the issue personally at this month's meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, which supervises the tunnel, failed to make adequate progress.

Dr Mawhinney was also questioned closely by members of the Commons Transport Select Committee on his admission last month that dozens of roll-on, roll-off ferries will not meet new safety standards for up to 12 years. The Transport Secretary confirmed that Britain might introduce extra ferry safety standards independently. "There may be scope for developing regional standards within IMO," he said.

Major promotes reformed rebel

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JAMES CRAN, a ringleader of the Maastricht Treaty rebellion, was promoted onto the first rung of the ministerial ladder yesterday in a move seen as John Major's latest gesture to the Right.

Mr Cran, 51-year-old MP for Beverley, was named as parliamentary private secretary to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary. He succeeds Richard Spring, MP for Bury St Edmunds, who resigned last month after disclosures about his private life.

The appointment follows the Prime Minister's surprise decision to readmit unconditionally to the fold the nine whipless rebels and the choice of Michael Spicer, who was a

leading Maastricht rebel, as the intermediary in talks on their return. The appointment of Mr Cran, a reformed character since his Maastricht rebellion, is a sign that Mr Major is trying to shore up his support on the Right.

Although his new post is unpaid, Mr Cran will be regarded as a member of the payroll vote and will lose his job if he repeats his Maastricht defiance. He voted against the treaty 30 times and abstained 30 times.

Donald Mackay, QC, was appointed Solicitor General for Scotland yesterday in succession to Thomas Dawson, QC, who has been made a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: from 10am, debate was held on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Lancashire structure plan, the Broadmoor Farm business park and Burtonwood air base. In the afternoon, questions to Foreign Office ministers were followed by debates on exports, industry and inward investment. In the Lords: debate on the

Sale of Goods (Amendment) Bill and Financial Services (Amendment) Bill. TODAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture ministers and the Prime Minister will be followed by a debate on the RAF. In the Lords: debate on the Health Authorities Bill, third reading, the Commonwealth Development Corporation Bill and the Crown Agents Bill.

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'At the moment, monetary union is for intellectuals — we must see it work on the ground'

Santer admits EU error on currency

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

A CHARM offensive to "sell" the idea of a single currency to Europe's sceptical voters is being planned by Jacques Santer, the European Commission's new President. However, in an interview with *The Times* on the eve of his visit to London today, Mr Santer acknowledged that public support for monetary union does not yet exist because the EU's politicians have misjudged the level of public support for European integration.

Before the European summit in Cannes in June, Mr Santer will present Union leaders with a marketing drive intended to turn monetary union into a popular cause during the final years of the century. Just as EU experts prepare plans for minting and printing euro coins and banknotes, opinion polls in Britain and Germany have shown that a single currency is less popular than ever. "I must say that the public

support is not yet sufficient to realise it," Mr Santer said of the plans for monetary union written into the Maastricht Treaty. "At the moment, monetary union is something for intellectuals or for those who study it in books. We have to go out and see that it works on the ground." Even in Luxembourg, which has been in a monetary union with Belgium for 70 years, Mr Santer noticed that an experiment in pricing everything in the shops in euros was a "disaster".

The former Prime Minister of Luxembourg, who took over the European Commission last January from Jacques Delors, delivers a speech at the Guildhall tonight as part of his quiet efforts to keep Britain alongside the rest of the EU.

M. Delors's professorial intensity and goading of Britain has given way to Mr Santer's dislike of being tactlessly controversial. While M. Delors played the fierce school pre-

fect, Mr Santer likes to be the genial host.

Suddenly catapulted into the Commission presidency when John Major vetoed Jean-Luc Dehaene, Belgium's Prime Minister, for the job last summer, Mr Santer is a consensus manager and plainly not the "philosopher king" Mr Major and Mr Hurd wanted to avoid. He walks through the agenda for next year's conference to revisit the Maastricht Treaty with the care of a man treading in a minefield. Wherever Mr Santer is standing, you can be sure it is middle ground.

Middle ground opinion in Europe's political classes still favours unification, the single currency and moves towards political union in 1996, but politicians like Mr Santer now approach these issues with a wariness which was nowhere to be seen when the Maastricht Treaty was written in 1991. A "lift" had opened between politicians and pub-



Jacques Santer: the European Union must not become "something Napoleonic... like the French system"

lic, Mr Santer acknowledged. "We thought that the population, the citizens, were much closer to European unification than they are," he said.

As Europe prepares to mark VE-Day, the drive to unite Europe has slackened as memories of war have faded.

"We have to be aware that the first programme of the European Union was precisely a programme to establish a durable peace in Europe. But the younger generations have no more links with the Second World War. They see what is going on in former Yugosla-

via, Rwanda and elsewhere. They see that there's organised crime and that they don't have safety in their own families." To be credible, he said, the Union must make an impact on unemployment, and crime but it should do only what the nation states

cannot handle. With a grin and a dig at M. Delors, Mr Santer added that the EU should not become something Napoleonic, a centralised state "like the French system". "I'm a federalist in this way: for me federalism is the opponent of centralisation. We want to put

into the Union's hands only that which would be better done at the European level and leave all the other problems to the national or regional level where they could be better done."

He said this meant the states will have to discuss using more majority voting to settle joint foreign policy. But even this idea, unpopular in Britain, is hedged about with qualifications designed to frighten Conservative MPs.

Mr Santer steered away from commenting on Westminster politics. He said he wanted to see an "objective" debate about Europe in Britain and will tell tonight's audience that Britain underestimates the value of the tradand investment delivered by EU membership.

With a chuckle, he added, that other EU countries could learn from British social policies — although he still hoped that Britain will one day join the Social Chapter. "I think we are not far away from joining our forces," Mr Santer said, hoping to close the gap which has opened between Britain and the continent by making Brussels less of a bogeyman. "We are not building up [full United States of Europe] the beginning of the 21st century. Our only ambition is to sustain durable peace and prosperity here in Europe."

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Italy deploys army to stop migrants

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALY will deploy 1,000 troops along the coast of Apulia next week to try to halt the influx of illegal immigrants arriving nightly from Albania and Montenegro, officials said yesterday.

The sentries from the army's Finerolo Brigade, based at Bari, are to guard more than 60 miles of shoreline stretching down to Santa Margherita di Leuca in the province of Salento, in the heel of the Italian boot. The authorities estimate that about 10,000 people, including Turkish Kurds, Egyptians, Pakistanis, Indians, Afghans and Chinese, as well as Albanians and refugees from the former Yugoslavia, have landed between Bari and Salento during the past six months.

The Government of Lamberto Dini has put aside 5,000 billion lire (£1.8 million) to pay for the army operation, which is also designed to help to curtail lucrative trafficking in arms and drugs across the Otranto Channel.

Many of the immigrants travel from the Albanian port of Vlore, where a fleet of about 50 motor launches equipped with powerful 200hp to 300hp engines is based, police sources say. Each boat is capable of packing between 20 and 25 people on board for the 48-mile journey which

lasts only about 90 minutes. In bad weather accidents are frequent and about 40 people, many of them children, are believed to have drowned during the crossings.

Criminal gangs from Rome and Brindisi organise reception on the Italian side. The new arrivals from Albania, Bosnia and Macedonia are whisked away by bus or to railway stations to travel elsewhere in Italy.

For the Chinese, Kurd and other Asians, Italy is usually a staging post from which they seek to enter Germany and France. Many immediately present themselves at police stations where they receive expulsion orders. Under Italian law, that allows them to remain in the country for 15 days and gives them the time to map the next leg of their journey.

The clandestine immigrants' voyages are marged by big Mafia holdings. Even the Chinese Mafia is involved. Procurator Caldo Motta, a magistrate spearheading the battle against organised crime in Abilia, said: "The traffic in arm and drugs is ever more intense. We suspect that heroin factories are starting up in Albania. The army intervention will be a deterrent to trail the flow of suspect vessels to the western Adriatic coast."

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US envoy denounces 'diabolical' rocket barrage as Croats and Krajina Serbs agree ceasefire

Innocents targeted in Zagreb attack

By JOEL BRAND AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE American Ambassador to Croatia said the rebel Serb rocket barrage against Zagreb was aimed for the lunch hour to kill as many innocent people as possible.

Standing in the cellar of Zagreb children's hospital, where 200 young patients were huddled together shortly after the building took three rocket hits, Peter Galbraith denounced the second attack in two days as diabolical. One person died and 43 were injured yesterday.

"This is a clear violation of the most basic elements of human decency," he said during a visit accompanied by Mate Granic, the Croatian Foreign Minister.

"One should understand what has gone on — cluster bombs (on the rockets) sent into the centre of a European capital are intended for one purpose and that is to kill lots of people," Mr Galbraith said. "Furthermore, the timing of the attacks, not at night but

right in the middle of the day, during the lunch hour, is further evidence that the sole purpose was to kill as many innocent people as possible. It's an utter outrage," the ambassador added, his voice quivering with anger.

Mr Granic described the rocket bombardments as a war crime and said he would report it to Judge Richard Goldstone, head of the United Nations tribunal on war crimes in former Yugoslavia. "A particular crime is to target hospitals, schools and theatres, which has happened in the past two days," he said.

The strikes were in apparent retaliation against a two-day government blitz in which it seized a key slice of motorway and regained control of a region of the rebels' self-declared "state". That offensive came to a successful end on Tuesday. Some 600 Croatian Serb soldiers, surrounded in the fighting, have surrendered and will be

handing over their weapons in the next four days. About 5,000 Serbs who fled the area captured by the government troops are now refugees in northern Bosnia, relief workers said. They dismissed Serb assertions that the refugees were victims of the kind of "ethnic cleansing" campaign the Serbs have waged against Muslims and Croats.

"What we saw happen was basically a military operation with some shelling of civilian areas," said Kris Janowski, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. "This caused a wake of refugees and displaced people, but we have no evidence of 'ethnic cleansing'." Mr Janowski and an official from the International Committee of the Red Cross condemned the Croats for shelling Serb civilian areas and a hospital. "We shall inform Judge Goldstone ... Croatia will find a way to protect itself from these crimes," Mr Granic accused



A man who was badly wounded in yesterday's rocket attack on Zagreb by rebel Serbs is taken to an ambulance

Milan Martić, the ultra-nationalist president of the self-declared Serb Krajina republic in Croatia, and his military commander General Milan Celeketic, of ordering

the rocket attacks. "They will have to answer to the Croatian public and the international community," he said. The UN said last night that Croatia and the rebel Serbs had

agreed to an immediate ceasefire. "I have words of honour from both sides to implement this agreement," Yasushi Akashi, the UN special envoy in the Balkans, said.

UN sources said the verbal agreement would be signed shortly.

Leading article and Letters, page 21

Britain to pull out if war grows

London: British troops will not remain in the Balkans "at any cost" if fighting continues to escalate, Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday.

The time had not yet arrived to withdraw forces working under the United Nations flag, but the deteriorating situation in the former Yugoslavia was "very worrying". Britain has about 3,500 troops in the area and plans have been drawn up to evacuate them in an emergency.

"The situation could easily deteriorate to make that inevitable," Mr Rifkind told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. "I hope it does not because I think the presence of the UN has still a viable impact in preventing the war spreading throughout the Balkans. We cannot expect British and other UN forces to be there irrespective of the dangers. We are not fighting in a war in which Britain has a direct interest. We do have an indirect interest ... of helping peace in the region, but not at any cost."

Croatia's UN force 'has to be white'

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

UNCRO, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, is the proposed rump force of 8,750 men from the 14,825 men of Unprofor, the UN Protection Force now assigned to Croatia.

Unprofor, a unified force for all former Yugoslavia, was split at the insistence of President Tudjman, who had threatened to order its evacuation from Croatia because he said it was perpetuating the separation of his country's Serb-held enclaves.

Uncro came into being last month with a Security Council resolution giving it a six-point mandate: to implement the March 1994 ceasefire and monitor the deployment of troops and weapons; to help the operation of transport and energy networks; to help to implement all Security Council resolutions on freedom of movement, security and humanitarian activities; to monitor the crossing of weapons and men over the borders between Croatia and Bosnia and Croatia and Serbia; to help to deliver aid to Bosnia through Croatia; and to monitor the demilitarisation of the Prevlaka peninsula.

Controversy surrounds the new UN force, especially over the demand by President Tudjman that it should comprise only Europeans. His demand for the dismissal of non-white troops, including the Jordanians and Kenyans now in Croatia, has been opposed by the international community, and so far no troops from the units currently in Croatia have been withdrawn. Other non-Europeans include Argentinians, Nepalese and Indonesians. Britain has never had troops in Croatia, so will not be part of the new force.

The force will continue to have its headquarters in Zagreb, but its life may be short. The new round of fighting poses the same problems as for Unprofor in Bosnia-Herzegovina and contributor nations may pull out if the UN task becomes impossible.

Serb army 'showing surprising restraint'

FROM JOEL BRAND
IN SARAJEVO

DESPITE inflicting many civilian casualties in Zagreb, the Croatian Serbs have shown surprising restraint in this week's successful government offensive.

So far they have retaliated with only a small fraction of their capability, launching a small probing attack near the Adriatic coast yesterday, as well as two days of rocket strikes on the capital.

The offensive against the Serb-held region known by its UN designation "Sector West", easily succeeded in wresting away a key 20-mile slice of motorway and railway, which the Croatian Government needs to reach the eastern part of the country. It also nibbled off a chunk of the rebel Serbs' self-proclaimed state and sent 5,000 residents fleeing. About 600 Serb troops, with their heavy weapons, surrendered.

"Effectively, Sector West has ceased to exist," a UN official said. "They've been very restrained. They haven't gone on the warpath. Even their retaliation against civilians hasn't been as bad as it could be." Most of the thousands of peacekeepers who worked in the area until Monday will be redeployed.

With about 240 main battle tanks to the Croatian Army's 170, and the ability to call upon the support of rebel Bosnian Serbs and probably the former Yugoslav Army, the separatists could punch back hard at government forces.

"They probably have the potential to cut Dalmatia in half," the UN official said, referring to the vulnerable coastal strip of Croatia. The Dalmatian coast, with its allure to European tourists, is the country's biggest money-maker. "I did think there would be something more," a UN military officer said.

However, President Milosevic of Serbia, courting the image of Balkan peace-maker, would be reluctant overtly to return his forces to Croatian battlefields. The rebel Serb leadership in Bosnia is loath to get involved in a fight in Croatia while equally pressing concerns remain at home. "They don't want to fight a two-front war," the official said. Senior UN sources say they believe the Bosnian Serbs are preparing for a big military campaign against increasingly combative government forces.

German post office blast kills worker

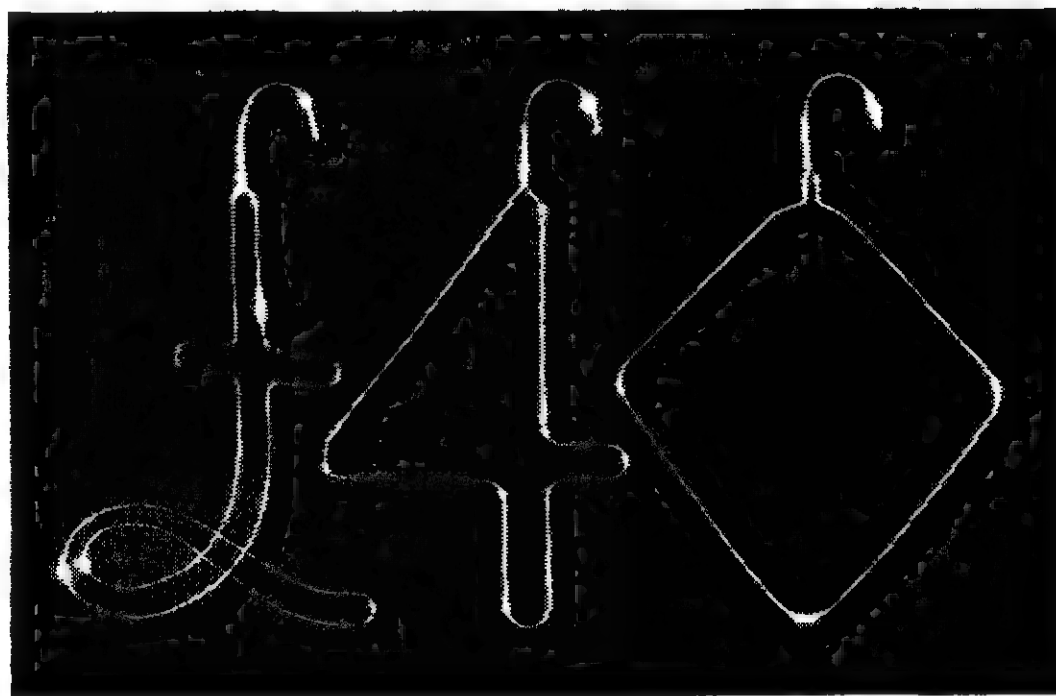
Frankfurt: A parcel bomb packed with screws exploded yesterday at a Frankfurt post office sorting centre, killing a woman worker and injuring 11 other people, two of them seriously.

The blast came as an unsuspecting 36-year-old postal sorter took the package from a roller wagon to place it on a conveyor belt. A 35-year-old colleague standing nearby died a few hours later from her injuries, and two other postal workers, men aged 24 and 43, were in hospital with serious wounds. Nine more workers were taken to hospital

with slight injuries. Sixteen people were in the sorting office when the bomb went off at 7.50am in the Frankfurt number 2 parcels office. Little other damage was caused except to some packages.

"Screws were added to the device to increase the shrapnel effect," said Job Tilmann, a spokesman for the prosecutor's office. Police said the motive appeared to be "general crime", rather than political, but declined to say to whom the bomb was addressed. No warning of the blast was given to police. (Reuters/AFR)

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FBI hardliner promoted

Clinton hits back against militias

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration, signalling that it will not be cowed by paramilitary extremists, is promoting a *bête noire* of America's anti-government militia movement to be the FBI's second-in-command.

Larry Potts, who is running the Oklahoma City bombing investigation, was in charge of two previous FBI operations which the militias considered proof of a government plot to repress US citizens.

One was the 1993 federal assault on the Branch Davidians' Waco compound which left more than 80 dead. Timothy McVeigh, the only man charged with the Oklahoma bombing, vowed retribution for that attack after visiting the site.

The second was the FBI's 1992 siege of the heavily armed Idaho mountain cabin of Randy Weaver, a white separatist, which ended in the fatal shooting of Weaver's wife and son. Mr Potts was disciplined

for poor supervision of that operation.

A militia spokesman in Idaho said Mr Potts's promotion would confirm the "worst nightmares" of those who believed that the Government was conspiring against them. Larry Craig, Idaho's Republican senator, said the promotion was neither "appropriate" nor "prudent".

Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, cited the progress of the Oklahoma investigation as proof of Mr Potts's ability, but her announcement came on one of the most frustrating days for the investigators.

Eighteen hours after the dawn raid on a Missouri motel that captured two men suspected of being Mr McVeigh's co-conspirators, the FBI was forced to release the pair because they could not link them to the bombing.

One senior law enforcement official told *The Washington Post* there was "plenty to be suspicious of", but Gary Land

and Robert Jacks passed lie detector tests and insisted it was mere coincidence that they had followed Mr McVeigh from the same town in Arizona to Oklahoma just before the bombing. The day after the bombing they had checked into a motel in the same Oklahoma town where Mr McVeigh was being held on unrelated speeding and firearms charges. "We didn't do it. We're clean. We just got questioned. That's it," Mr Jacks said.

A Michigan court meanwhile rejected a bail application from James Nichols, one of two brothers held on unrelated explosives charges. An FBI agent testified that Mr Nichols told a visitor to his Michigan farm that his brother, Terry, and Mr McVeigh were testing home-made bombs and that it was possible to build one large enough to destroy a federal building.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20



Hideo Nomo, the Japanese baseball star, making his first major league pitch for the Los Angeles Dodgers

Simpson 'trail of blood'

Los Angeles: A police chemist told a Los Angeles jury that the blood type found in drops leading from the murdered bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman exists in only one in 200 people and O.J. Simpson is among them (Giles Whittell writes).

In hours of tedious evidence Gregory Matheson also said that Brown Simpson's blood type was found on socks in the bedroom of the former football star. The prosecution is to present further "trail of blood" evidence, including DNA analysis. Mr Simpson has denied murdering his former wife and her friend.

America executes two murderers

Potosi: A murderer was put to death by lethal injection in Missouri shortly after Pennsylvania carried out its first execution in 33 years, by the same method. Enmitt Foster, 42, was convicted of the murder of one of his softball teammates during a robbery. Keith Zentmeyer, 39, was executed in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, for killing a friend about to give evidence against him in a robbery trial. (AFP)

Banker to testify over Whitewater

Washington: Neil Ainley, an Arkansas banker accused over the illegal diversion of funds during President Clinton's gubernatorial campaign in 1990, pleaded guilty to reduced charges in exchange for testifying to the Whitewater inquiry (Tom Rhodes writes). As a witness before a Little Rock federal grand jury, he is expected to focus on the dealings of Bruce Lindsey, one of the President's close advisers.

New York's twin towers for sale

New York: The twin towers of New York's World Trade Centre, symbol of international commerce and more recently a target for terrorism, may soon be up for sale (Ben Macintyre writes). The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns and manages the World Trade Centre complex, has contacted five investment banks with a view to selling part or all of the city's tallest building.

Japan's top pitcher strikes gold in US

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

INTO the demoralized world of professional baseball, still recovering from a seven-month players' strike, has stepped the invigorating presence of Hideo Nomo.

He mesmerises opponents with an action worthy of a mime artist, can hurl a baseball at 90 miles an hour, and is the first Japanese-born player to appear in the American major leagues for more than 30 years.

On Tuesday night he made his debut for the Los Angeles Dodgers, striking out seven San Francisco 49ers in a performance watched by more than 100 members of the Japanese sporting press corps and tens of millions of television viewers on the other side of the Pacific. The game was broadcast live in Japan, starting at 4.30am.

Some Japanese reporters have been on the road with Nomo and the Dodgers ever since the reigning champions of the National Baseball League signed him in February for a performance-related contract package that will

bring the player up to \$2 million (£1.2 million).

Since then he has limbered up with the Dodgers at spring training, a normally idyllic baseball ritual for which the nation's teams converge on Florida for a series of pre-season friendlies. This year it was delayed by the strike, as was Nomo's long-awaited opening game.

When the moment arrived and the pitcher began his stretching exercises, police officers were called in to keep the crush of cameras at bay. In what appears to have been an attempt to assimilate himself to the American way, Nomo obliged photographers by turning and pulling down his shorts.

He won a reputation for aloofness as star pitcher for the Kintetsu Buffaloes and lost some fans in the process. He appears keen to ingratiate himself with senior Dodgers, however. Though possessed of little English, he greets Tommy Lasorda, the team's legendary coach, with the phrase "hey, dude".

Alabama convicts back in chains

FROM IAN BRODIE IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

A TOTAL of 320 subdued but angry men knelt on the ground yesterday to be shackled together at the ankles, five to a chain, eight feet apart. They were put to work under the gaze of armed guards to cut grass, clear ditches and pick up litter beside a motorway. They wore white cotton jackets, trousers and caps.

That was the scene yesterday as Alabama revived the dreaded prison chain-gang.

"I feel humiliated," James Sears, 30, who is serving 12 years for armed robbery, said. "You can't even chain up five dogs alongside the road without the animal protection society getting on your case."

His views were echoed by others in the gang. "It's all a bunch of hype," Dwayne Rowe, 25, a convicted drug dealer, said as he gazed at the flock of reporters and television crews invited to cover this penal milestone.

Ron Jones, the state's Prison Commissioner, believes that prison should be hard. Men sent to the chain-gangs, soon to be increased to nearly 1,000, are all second offenders or parole violators.

The gangs will work 12 hours a day, five days a week, in temperatures that climb into the nineties in summer, with only one water break every hour and a brief lunch. Nor is there much for them to look forward to back at the prison. They have been deprived of television, radio and snack-shop privileges as well as visits. About all they can do, one said, is play dominoes. Lights go out at 9pm and the men rise at 4am.

In London, David Marshall, of the Human Rights Committee of the English Bar, denounced the reintroduction of chain-gangs as a backward step that should be challenged in court.

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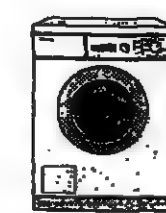
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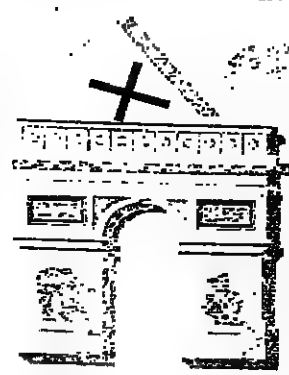
Mitterrand steals limelight from lacklustre debate

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

JACQUES CHIRAC, the Gaullist candidate, cruised on as firm favourite for the French presidency yesterday after a lacklustre television debate with Lionel Jospin, the Socialist, which sent viewers scurrying for other channels but was hailed by the political world for its dignity.

Relief suffused a Gaullist camp delighted that the gaffe-prone M. Chirac, 62, had done nothing to shake his image as the more statesmanlike candidate in a 180-minute exchange. Although M. Jospin, 57, held his own in a courteous joust on policy differences, their show-down was deemed unlikely to swing many undecided voters ahead of Sunday's election. While the media world gave M. Chirac the edge on points, straw polls suggested sympathy for the honourable performance by the professional M. Jospin against an old warhorse of the political scene. The latest polls show M. Chirac staying about eight percentage points ahead in the race to succeed President Mitterrand. Television networks reported that the video duel was watched by about 16 million viewers, only half the expected audience.

As the "spin-doctors" of each campaign claimed victory for their man, M. Mitterrand held the spotlight, presiding over the final cabinet meeting of his 14-year presidency and visiting the site on the banks of the Seine where youths from the far



FRENCH ELECTION

Right National Front of Jean-Marie Le Pen are alleged to have drowned a Moroccan man during a parade on Monday. "This crime causes me great suffering," he said after laying flowers by the Pont du Carrousel, where Brahim Bouarram was drowned by skinhead thugs. "I would not say it causes me shame because it was not the country that desired this but a minority of twisted, deformed, misled people." Thousands of demonstrators marched to the spot in protest against the killing and the emergence of M. Le Pen's cause as a big force in the elections.

The weekly cabinet session, estimated to have been the 1,300th attended by M. Mitterrand in 50 years, was one of his last acts of government. "You have written a page in

our history. You have left your mark," Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist Prime Minister, told him as he also took leave after two years of running the "cohabitation" Government and failing to beat M. Chirac for the presidency.

M. Mitterrand is to hand over the Elysée Palace to the new President in about ten days, after attending VE-Day celebrations in Moscow. In keeping with the law, M. Mitterrand also published a statement of personal wealth for the first time since 1988. This showed that he was better-off, with several hundred thousand pounds-worth of assets, but far less than suggested by best-selling books which claim that he has enriched his family in shady dealings.

The leave-taking of the ailing President was marred by Michel Rocard, his long-time Socialist rival and a former Prime Minister. He claimed that the President had "killed" attempts to create a reformed left-wing movement. "A Socialist is going to step down, leaving the Left in a state that could take a decade to overcome," he said.

□ Lyons: An appeal court freed on bail Alain Carignon, a former Communications Minister, who has been in jail awaiting trial for seven months. M. Carignon, a Gaullist and Mayor of Grenoble, faces up to ten years in prison if convicted of corruption and fraud. (Reuters)



A skinhead under arrest in Paris yesterday after the murder of a Moroccan

Brittan's rebuke angers Ottawa

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

IF THE European External Trade Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, was sent to Ottawa to help in patching up things between Canada and the European Union after their recent fishing dispute, he made a fine mess of things.

At a private lunch on Tuesday, Sir Leon criticised Canada for using gunboat diplomacy and aggressive tactics against Spanish fishing vessels in international waters off Newfoundland in March. He said that Canada's actions jeopardised closer trade ties with Europe.

His words got back to Jean Chretien, the Prime Minister, who cancelled a meeting with Sir Leon planned for that afternoon. Sir Leon had told the lunch guests that it was time for Canada to "face up to the fact that the effect of the dispute will be to reduce European enthusiasm for any further opening up to Canada for the time being".

Sir Leon arrived at the Prime Minister's office later only to find Mr Chretien was not there. He was told the Prime Minister had "an unexpected engagement", the diplomatic euphemism for a snub.

Threat of terrorism by Maoris

Wellington: Maori activists yesterday gave a warning of terrorism aimed at foreign investors in New Zealand, as the Government tried to woo investment at an international conference (Michael Munro writes).

Michael Smith, a Maori leader, said after a clash between protesters and the police outside a meeting of the Asian Development Bank in Auckland: "Terrorism will be used if necessary to combat the privatisation of resources so they can be sold to overseas investors." Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, said the warning was outrageous, irresponsible, and beyond the limits of reasonable protest.

UN blocked

Seoul: UN monitors of the Korean armistice have been banned from entering North Korea as part of Pyongyang's campaign for a peace treaty with America formally to end the 1950-53 war. (Reuters)

Ban overturned

Jakarta: An Indonesian court ruled against a government ban imposed on a weekly magazine *Tempo*, which published critical articles about political life under President Suharto. (Reuters)

Rise of organised crime 'a threat to world security'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MOST of the world's nations are suffering from weak leaders running "shaky governments" who spend so much time worrying about disgruntled voters that they have little inclination to produce positive initiatives in foreign affairs, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said yesterday in its annual report. "The only leaders in sight with vision and conviction are possessed by some form of lunatic ideology," the institute said. "For most, muddling through is the only... style of leadership available."

Yet at this time of "pervading impotence" in international affairs, there was a multitude of new threats to world security, including the global traffic in nuclear materials and drugs, organised crime, and the undermining

by criminals of financial and commercial institutions.

The spread of commercially available technologies with potentially significant military applications threatened to complicate regional military balances and international security. For example, the ability to exploit the military potential of space-based navigational systems was no longer limited to the leading military powers. With the arrival of sophisticated commercial satellite receivers, Third World countries could develop new types of cruise or ballistic missiles.

The threat posed by the traffic in nuclear materials from the former Soviet Union had increased with the emergence of criminal organisations that seemed to be dominating Russian society.

The institute said there were an estimated 5,700 criminal gangs in Russia with a membership of more than 100,000.

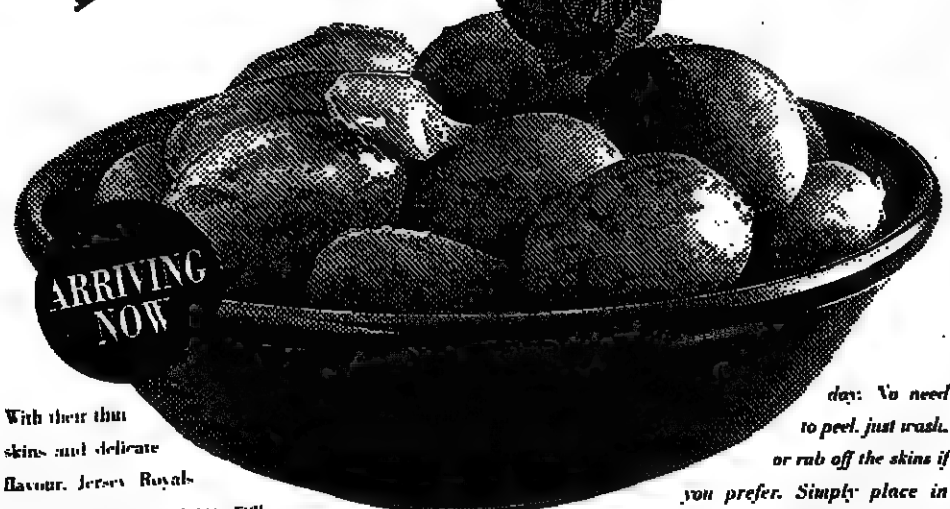
Criminal organisations were also involved in smuggling people. According to one estimate, crime groups are now trying to smuggle as many as one million people a year from poor to wealthier countries.

More countries were being drawn into the orbit of drug traffickers and trans-national criminal organisations. Brazil, for example, was "playing an increasingly important role as a trans-shipment state", the institute said. The threat was "insidious, pervasive and multi-faceted" and put national security at risk.

□ Strategic Survey 1994-1995 (Oxford University Press: £19.99)

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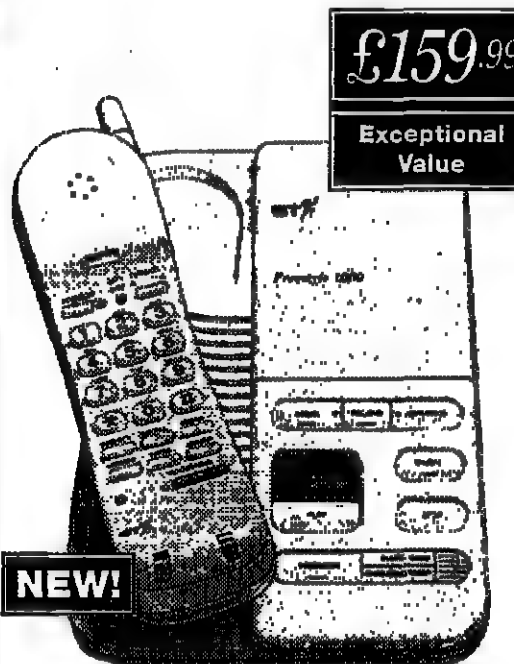
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Martin Fletcher on Tipper Gore, as she prepares to visit London

FREDERIC NEZMA/SYGMA



Tipper and Al Gore in Egypt: the couple remain transparently in love and Mrs Gore has always insisted on putting her family first, even at the expense of her own career

Family home with campus attached

Hilary Macaskill meets the linguist who produces best-selling encyclopedias on a shoestring

People get annoyed by language. David Crystal knows this better than most. A former professor of linguistics, his relaxed style is familiar to listeners of *Speak Out* on BBC Radio 4.

"They want me to be prescriptive. They would write to me, always sending a copy to the Director-General with a first-class stamp, as if it were a matter of the utmost importance, as if language couldn't wait until the end of the week. And they would say they were 'appalled' about a split infinitive, what language would they use if the Pope was shot?"

Pedantic grammarians may be appalled by his new book, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language* (£29.95). The section on the rise of prescriptive grammar, for example, makes clear that what we think of as the "correct" rules of traditional grammar appeared only in the latter part of the 18th century.

His full colour, 500-page, hard-back survey weighs 5lb, and spans continents and centuries at a bound. Its sumptuous appearance suggests scores of Cambridge academics beavering away in reality it was produced by

visiting his uncle in Holyhead soon afterwards, he came upon a house for sale. He bought it, and began his freelance life. His first project was an encyclopedia of language. "I hawked it round three or four publishers and Cambridge University Press took it on slightly reluctantly — they thought an illustrated book on language didn't make much sense." *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language* has been reprinted seven times since 1987 and is one of their bestsellers.

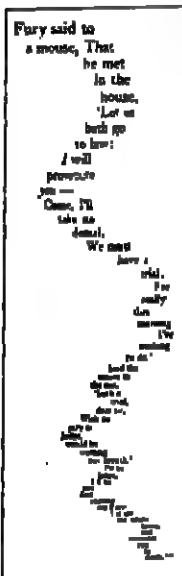
His next plan, to devote a book exclusively to English, was diverted by a request to edit the general reference

Cambridge Encyclopedia. "How often do you get paid to learn about everything?" One contributor wrote a note of congratulation, exclaiming: "I wasn't aware you had a background in chemistry." "I don't," was Crystal's reply. "But I know a good sentence about chemistry when I see one."

Mr Crystal built a house extension after the encyclopedia's publication in 1990 as he needed more space for the computers demanded by spin-off projects — there will soon be seven volumes, including biographical and junior editions, as well as a CD-ROM version. A spiral staircase has been added to allow access for workers updating the database.

Mr Crystal's wife, Hilary, works as editorial administrator, and their children, Ben and Lucy, as occasional fact-checkers in what has become a family business.

Additional staff mean that David Crystal could return to his pet project, the all-colour encyclopedia of English. His down-to-earth approach is as evident as ever, with examples of usage drawn from comics (*Desperate Dan* makes an appearance), advertisements and sports commentary. While accommodating the national curriculum, the book is also "fixed very firmly in the street". So the history of English and analysis of vocabulary is enlivened by anecdotes, word games, and a box about *Blankety Blank*.



An illustration from Crystal's encyclopedia

Washington's friendly face

Londoners should watch this weekend for an attractive 46-year-old blonde snapping scenes of the capital with a Nikon camera while a couple of burly crew-cut men hover near by. This will not be just another American tourist, but Tipper Gore making her first official trip to Britain with the Vice-President. America's "Second Lady" is determined to steal away between the VE-Day celebrations and dates at Buckingham Palace and

Downing Street to indulge her passion for photography.

Mrs Gore will doubtless enjoy all the weekend's formal pomp and ceremony, but it really is not her style. She prefers spontaneity — flying off at a moment's notice to help in a Rwandan refugee camp, as she did last summer, coaxing her embarrassed husband into an unscripted boogie on the stage of the Democrats' 1992 convention, or firing water pistols at reporters.

Later in the 1992 campaign

She will steal away from the pomp and ceremony to indulge her passion for photography

she telephoned CNN's *Larry King Show* during a live appearance by her husband, disguised her voice, told Mr Gore he was the best-looking man she had ever seen and asked for a date. She let him splutter and turn crimson before revealing her identity.

Shortly after President Clinton's inauguration, the Vice-President's wife was spotted whizzing across Washington's Memorial Bridge, arms in the air, on the back of an aide's Harley-Davidson. She roller-bladed. She works out with Cindy Crawford videos. She is

a rock fan and plays the drums. Her Secret Service codename is, appropriately, Skylark.

Waiting in a private lounge for a flight home from Chicago last year, Mrs Gore ordered pizza for all her team. Secret Service included, when she was told the Japanese Ambassador was outside and would like to meet her. Bring him in for pizza, she suggested. Certainly not, replied Sally Aman, her press secretary, who insisted the pizza first be removed. Later, Ms Aman confesses, she got a letter from the Ambassador saying he "really would have enjoyed the pizza".

There was a time when Mrs Gore was considered a bit of a liability to her husband, but not any more. Like the Japanese Ambassador, America

father's Arlington home.

Mrs Gore never sought to balance career and family as Hillary Clinton did. She unashamedly put family first, confining herself to copious voluntary work for the homeless and mentally ill, her mother having suffered from depression. In 1987 she was so outraged by the sexually-explicit lyrics of one of her teenage daughter's albums that she and Susan Baker, wife of the former Republican Secretary of State, launched a high-profile crusade to have warning labels put on records.

She succeeded, but at a cost. The music industry accused her of prudery and censorship. Frank Zappa called her a "cultural terrorist". Commentators claimed her stand damaged her husband's 1988

presidential campaign, though it would now be considered mainstream. In 1989 the Gores' six-year-old son Albert was nearly killed by a speeding car as the family left a Baltimore Orioles baseball game. They spent a month by his hospital bed.

Mr Gore died the accident and his redoubled commitment to his family in ruling out a 1992 presidential bid. As it happened, Mr Clinton asked him to be his running mate. Tipper and Hillary Clinton immediately became firm

friends. She and Mr Clinton found they shared not just a birthday but the same impulsive, emotional nature. The Clintons and Gores embarked on a hugely successful bus tour of the Midwest that Mrs Gore later described as a "major double date". The two couples still dine together whenever possible, the three Gore daughters have befriended Chelsea, and the President has made Mrs Gore his unpaid adviser on mental health policy with an office next to the White House.

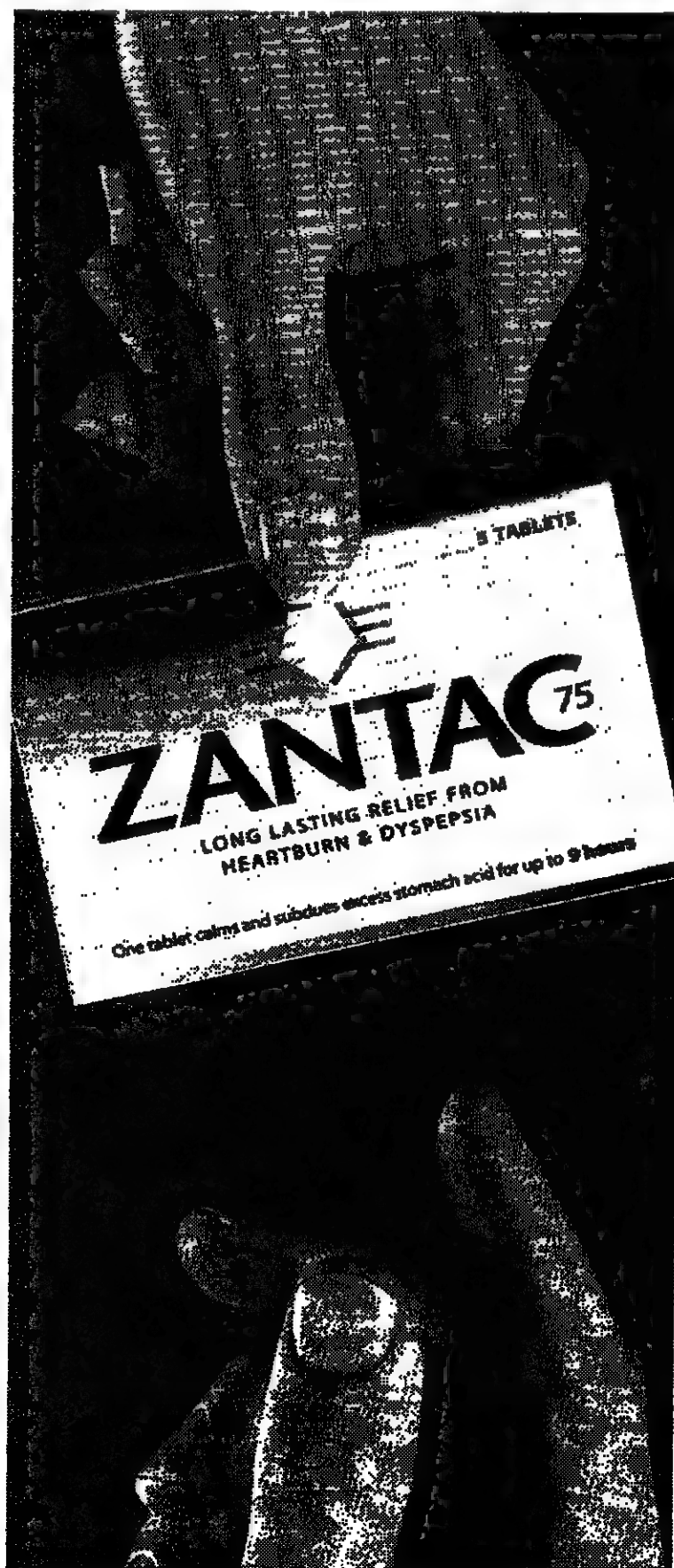
Second Lady or not, Mrs Gore's family still comes first. She works three or four days a week, but avoids overnight travel whenever possible and likes to return to the Naval Observatory, the Vice-President's official residence, by 3.30pm, when Albert returns from school. She attends her daughter's lacrosse games like any other parent. She has even persuaded the Secret Service to pick her children up from the movies in unmarked Jeeps, not embarrassing black limousines.

Mrs Gore is "having a blast", says her husband, but she has not lost the common touch. Together they jogged past a homeless man near the Observatory last year. He admits he did not notice. She returned with hot soup.



She plays the drums, she works out, her codename is Skylark

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IMRAN, CHARITY, SIN AND SEX

Imran Khan has seen the light. But, as political power beckons, is the cricketing demigod turning into an Islamic demagogue? Vicki Woods reports, in *The Magazine* this Sunday

PLUS

Zoe Heller in New York — shaping up in the gym and stocking up on new underwear



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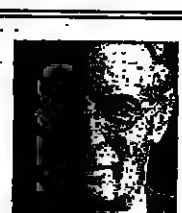
A doctor's advice at the end of a phone □ A natural way to avoid syringing ears □ High-tech interference for pacemaker wearers



ONE patient I saw recently who would have benefited from some medical knowledge was an elderly man with the complexion of a traditional butcher. He complained of headache, tiredness, breathlessness and itching. He said that the itching was intolerable when it became too hot, such as after a bath. This patient was suffering from the opposite of anaemia, polycythaemia: his blood was too rich in haemoglobin, he had too many red blood cells. He had been aware of this for some time but had always congratulated himself on his blood count, feeling that if it was bad to be anaemic, it must be good to have a high haemoglobin.

Polycythaemia is divided into two groups. Primary polycythaemia is rare and affects only one person in 200,000, mainly older men as it is four times more common in males. Secondary polycythaemia is much more common and is usually a reaction to poor oxygenation of the blood, often as a result of smoking or

Dial M for medicine



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

lung disease. It is normal in those who live in high altitudes. Treatment is by old-fashioned blood-letting: in cases of primary polycythaemia, the bone marrow may also have to be partially suppressed. With treatment patients do well; without it they do badly, for thrombosis is an ever-present risk.

Some doctors are irritated when a patient comes to the consulting room well-briefed and armed with a sheaf of clippings from newspapers and health magazines. Others welcome the chance to use this information as a

a brief account of their disease or symptoms. There are several hundred headings in their directory, each one of them numbered; the caller merely telephones 0645 245

and then the number of the chosen topic. The service is charged at local rates. Call 0645 245000 for details of the directory, or freephone 0800 252100. For people who live in North East Thames or Yorkshire, the bill is paid by the NHS; they should ring 0800 665544.

The advice given is safe, sound, politically correct, possibly even bland. The views are so established that they could be being given by the doctor on The Archers when he is warning listeners of the latest health hazard.

The *Which?* Healthline provides general information and an outline of the complaint, but must of necessity in many instances suggest that patients should also talk to their own doctor.

So far as my patients are concerned, I would welcome it if they had listened to the service before coming to me. The patient with polycythaemia and I searched the Healthline directory together, but it was in vain: polycythaemia was not included. Would that it had been, then he might have had the necessary treatment earlier and avoided his rather distressing symptoms.

Wax work



EAR wax is a vaguely distasteful subject, but an excess of it can be a recurrent problem, and time-consuming for GPs.

Recent research reported in the *British Journal of Clinical Practice* by doctors from St James's Hospital, Dublin, suggests that the average GP, or his nurse, syringes ears twice a week. If ears are not cleared the patient suffers increasing deafness and, if the wax is in contact with the drums, may have discomfort and feel dizzy.

The wax is composed of secretions from sebaceous glands in the hair follicles which line the external ear canal, secretions of the ceruminous glands (modified sweat glands), and dead skin.

The Dublin team conducted experiments to find out whether the use of oil or water-based wax solvents would require syringing less necessary, or ease the task. They found that natural expulsion of the wax clears one-third of all

ears without any medical interference. In half the cases in which the wax was broken up by the solvents and naturally expelled. Although ear syringing is a common procedure, it is not without complications. The *British Medical Journal* reported about four years ago that one in 1,000 people who had their ears syringed suffered pain or dizziness, or sometimes more serious damage. Solvents can cause irritation, but no case of this was reported by the Dublin doctors.

Heart talk



RECENT reports that high-tech gadgetry can affect the controls of airliners has added another focus for worried travellers.

But pilots and their passengers are not alone in their anxiety. Problems of interference may increasingly trouble patients who wear pacemakers, the small machines implanted near the heart which artificially

govern its timing. Research in Britain and America has shown that in some circumstances digital cellular telephones (but not the analogue ones, which are still the type most often used now) may confuse the pacemaker and even stop it.

Experiments carried out so far suggest that if the telephone is used in the normal speaking position all is well; interference has been noted only when it is held close to the pacemaker, up against the chest. So far there have been no recorded deaths.

It is recommended that owners of a digital cellular telephone who also have a pacemaker should always turn the telephone off before putting it in the breast pocket, should use the right ear when having a telephone conversation as it is further from the heart, and should never operate a telephone within 10-12 inches of the pacemaker.

The digital telephones may be secure against eavesdroppers, but those who have a pacemaker fitted and who are more concerned about their health than about the Sunday papers will be well advised to stick to the analogues.

The anatomy of a face

Many British children born with a cleft lip are being denied the best surgery, says Dr James Le Fanu



Tom Weston six months after major revision of his original operation for cleft palate

"I expected to swim through it," is how Mrs Liz Weston recalls her feelings when admitted to the obstetric ward of a London teaching hospital in 1991. This was her third pregnancy, there had been no complications and all her scans and blood tests had been normal. But when, after a short labour, her son, Tom, was delivered he had a large gap running through his upper lip and into the palate.

Though extremely distressed, she was reassured to be told her baby's defect could be fixed almost immediately, and within the week the hospital's plastic surgeon sewed the two sides of the upper lip together. A few months later the hole in the palate was patched over.

Soon after the second operation Mrs Weston and her family moved to Bournemouth and, having been told that Tom might need speech therapy, she made the appropriate inquiries and was delighted to learn that a surgeon working at the town's main hospital, Tony Markus, had a special interest in children with Tom's condition.

Their first meeting, she remembers, as "a terrible shock". "He was obviously terribly nice and sympathetic but he told me that Tom's operation would have to be completely redone. I could not believe it. I thought as his repair had been performed at a London teaching hospital he must have had the best possible treatment. But now it seems he would have to have another two major procedures over the next 18 months. Both my husband and I were deeply sceptical."

For nine months they prevaricated, but having met and talked to parents of children with the same problem, "eventually we were convinced. Mr Markus's results were obviously very good; what really decided us was that his argu-

ments seemed to make such good sense."

The face is formed in early embryonic development from sheets of tissue that grow inwards from either side and upwards for what becomes the chin to unite in the middle. Failure of fusion results in several deformities, varying in severity from a cleft or hare lip on one side to a wide gap on both sides of the nose that stretches up and back through the tissue of the gums into the nostrils all the way to the back of the palate. Over the years many operations have been devised to repair the defect which all involve sewing the skin and muscles on either side of the cleft together again. Initially there is usually a good aesthetic result and the face appears normal.

But as the child grows various anomalies appear. The nose becomes skewed to one side and the shape of the face in profile is abnormal, with a flattened central part and protruding jaw. The child develops speech difficulties with a marked nasal intonation compounded by poor growth of the soft palate at the back of the throat.

The cause of these late complications - which in turn require further complicated surgery and extensive orthodontic treatment - was thought to be the same genetic abnormality that had given rise to the cleft lip in the first place, a deficiency in the growth potential of the tissues of the face.

There is, however, another

very different explanation. It might seem obvious that the growth of the face through childhood into adult life is primarily determined by the underlying bony skeleton, but this is not the case. To grow in harmony, all the soft tissues, the overlying skin, the muscles, the tongue and the teeth have to interact with each other and with the underlying bone, moulding the shape of

ed by the embryonic failure of fusion. This explanation in turn requires that the initial operation needs to be much more extensive to achieve what is known as a "functional repair".

The standard cleft lip procedure involves reuniting the *orbicularis oris* muscle that surrounds the mouth; with a functional repair the other muscle groups around the nose are also mobilised and reconnected to the underlying bone. In a review of these two approaches in next month's issue of the *Journal of Oral and Maxillo-facial Surgery*, Professor Ulrich Joos of the University of Münster, Germany, reports normal development of the mid-face in all children with a functional repair compared with only 20 per cent of those who have the standard surgical procedure.

Mr Markus has had similar results prompting the question of why everybody has not switched to the new techniques, or rather why he thinks it necessary to redo cleft palate operations performed by other surgeons.

In Britain cleft palates have usually been dealt with as if they were primarily a cosmetic defect, requiring the skills of the plastic surgeon. The concept of the functional repair



Baby with a cleft lip (left) and a profile of a child who has had standard surgery (right)

however, has been pioneered by Mr Markus's specialty - oral and maxillo-facial surgeons whose training focuses on and requires a detailed understanding of the complex anatomy of the face.

Recently plastic surgeons have come to recognise their results have been less than satisfactory, certainly compared with those obtained in other West European countries. They believe, however, the explanation lies in the fact that too many surgeons have been doing too few operations.

Professor Bill Shaw of Manchester University is a firm proponent of this view and with some difficulty has managed to persuade 15 of the 18 plastic surgeons in the North West to give up cleft palate work in favour of three of their colleagues who now do all the operations.

This is certainly an advance but as Mr Markus points out: "Numbers [of operations] are important and the more experienced the surgeon the better the results." But the key issue, he maintains, remains the technique - the extensive type of operation that maximises the chances of a truly functional repair.

Mrs Weston has no regrets about placing her trust in his judgment. "As an artist I have been taught to look at people's faces and it is obvious that their shape and symmetry is determined by the structures underneath. Agreeing that Tom should have a major revision of his original operation remains the most difficult decision I have ever made." But the result, she says, is "simply wonderful".

Soldiers who fought 50 years ago are helping us to understand reactions to trauma today

From shell shock to combat fatigue

A study of the long-term effects of combat, published in this month's *American Journal of Psychiatry*, seems a particularly fitting way to mark the anniversary of the end of the war in Europe.

The subjects of the study, by the respected American psychiatrist George Vaillant, are 268 young men who attended Harvard University between 1939 and 1944. They were first studied as students, and have been followed up in meticulous detail ever since. This month's paper looks at them some 50 years on.

That soldiers suffer psychological distress is not a new finding - the concept of shell shock was introduced during the First World War, and its successor, combat fatigue, during the Second. But it was the individual and collective trauma of the Vietnam War that opened our eyes to the long-term effects of war experience.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was a new diagnosis introduced by American psychiatrists in the 1970s to

describe persistent psychological distress in Vietnam veterans. The symptoms of PTSD include general anxiety, emotional numbing, unwanted and distressing re-experiencing of the original trauma.

Some professionals continue to have doubts about the validity of PTSD, arguing that its causes lie less in the trauma itself and more in the background of the sufferer.

The latest Harvard paper significantly extends our knowledge of the condition. Of the original sample of 268, 243 saw military service. Thus by the age of 22, 90 per cent of the chosen students had joined the Armed Forces. It is hard to think of a greater contrast between these young men, whom the researchers confirmed had pride in the Armed Forces and enthusiasm for

military service, and the Vietnam veterans who have determined most of our thinking about the long-term effects of combat stress.

There was also a contrast with British attitudes to military service. America had not endured the same experience of the Great War, and had no evocation of the "lost generation" that characterised British memories. It was still possible in the Harvard of 1941 for almost an entire class to join up, and be keen to do so.

What happened afterwards? During the war 171 served overseas, of whom 19 were killed. It is the surviving 152 that form the basis of the study. All were interviewed on their return to civilian life in 1946. Only 17 had two or more symptoms of PTSD, and only one had full-blown PTSD.

Remarkably the authors were able to follow up 107 veterans 50 years later - 84 per cent of those still alive. Those with definite or probable PTSD had not done well. The veteran with definite PTSD had committed suicide, a second was murdered and a third had cut himself off from the others and refused to take part in the study.

However, those were the exceptions. Most of the others who had combat-related symptoms in 1946 still had them 50 years later, but these symptoms had not interfered



Combat stress: a GI in 1943

with their lives. They were socially and psychologically well adjusted, and many were listed in *Who's Who in America*. None of the others who had also experienced intense combat, but in 1946 had no psychological symptoms, developed any over the next 50 years.

As one would expect, some individuals had experienced other mental health problems, unrelated to the war, but these were already predictable on the standard measures of psychological health taken when the group were still at university, and were not linked to wartime experiences.

In contrast post-traumatic symptoms were associated only with combat experience, and not the prior psychological

measures. The 17 who experienced some traumatic symptoms in 1946 and beyond were significantly more likely to have experienced intense combat, and included all those who had been wounded.

What this exceptional study has shown is that psychological reactions to trauma, if they occur, persist. The worse the trauma, the more the symptoms. The normal processes by which we adapt to psychological distress do not seem to happen with such intense experiences. On the other hand, although memories of wartime combat do not fade away, and still cause distress half a century later, veterans can still function normally. Furthermore, many of those in combat never develop any psychological distress at all.

Those who watched the moving final episode of Jeremy Isaacs's *World at War* will remember not only the poignant stories of pain, despair and suffering, but also the other accounts of veterans for whom their wartime experiences were the high points of their lives.

Harvard graduates are not typical. However, it is precisely because these soldiers came from privileged backgrounds in contrast to the Vietnam veterans, many of whom were already socially disadvantaged before they joined the Army, that we are able to learn for the first time the true extent of the long-term consequences of battle trauma.

DR SIMON WESSELY
The author is a consultant psychiatrist at the Maudsley Hospital

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Janet Daley



■ The National Lottery — and why the British would rather admit to snobbery than to moral disapproval

Is it wrong to get something for nothing? To most people, the idea that trying to win a fortune was morally wrong would seem bizarre. Gambling may be a slightly seedy recreation at the down-market end of a glamorous pastime at the upper end, but regarding it as sinful to profit from your luck as opposed to your labour sounds positively quaint.

Or does it? Do we not find the great-fest in which television embeds the lottery result to be a shaming blot on the nation's Saturday evenings? Ah, you say, that distaste is not so much ethical as aesthetic. Which may well be true, but isn't it odd that the British are so much more willing to admit to snobbery than to moral disapproval?

And yet, fearless reproach was once at the heart of a vital working-class religion. Contention of all kinds was the key to social advancement. For those who wished to improve themselves, leaving behind the drink and the dog track was an essential step to self-respect. Denying yourself the conviviality of the pub and the book-maker's was not only a sign that you were unprepared to risk the family's bread; it also meant that you were investing (financially and emotionally) in the future.

Endorsing the bourgeois virtue of thrift means that you think it worth your while to save that tomorrow might be better than today, that it is possible to make some long-term improvement in your condition. To refrain from gambling is to believe that there is a point to self-denial. What would seem to follow from this is that being unable to resist is a sign of hopelessness: an admission that the only way you are ever going to escape from your futile existence is by relying on gratuitous fate. It is the despair that is assumed to underlie compulsive gambling, which produces such an ambivalent response among the conscientious classes.

Where the temptations of drink and gaming were once seen as a test of moral fibre, they are now given quasi-medical status by the counselling industry. Like alcoholism, "lottery addiction" is now to be regarded as an illness. But where alcohol can produce actual physical addiction, a "dependence" on gambling can only be emotional. Whether you call that personality syndrome "weakness of character" or "psychological maladjustment" depends on your moral standpoint (or lack of one). Both these views — the one that sees gambling as wicked and the "addiction" model — played their part in the long-standing resistance to a national lottery.

Now, the worst fears of both sets of objectors seem to be being realised. Mothers are said to be using child benefit for gambling

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Bomb's unlikely winners

Oklahoma could benefit Clinton and Wilson in the presidential race

The Oklahoma bomb has horrified America, and for the time being at least, changed American politics. Apart from the initial suspect, Timothy McVeigh, a disturbed ex-soldier who fought in the Gulf War, nobody knows who was responsible, although much organisation must have been required. He had associations with right-wing militia groups, and the date of the attack suggests that the motivation involved the Waco massacre of two years ago. The main political beneficiary so far has been President Clinton: his visit to Oklahoma City showed again what a skilled public performer he is, and reminded Republicans that he is still a powerful electoral campaigner.

McVeigh's association with conservative groups gave the President a chance to attack all his critics. "These people, who do they think they are, saying their Government has stamped on freedom? ... I don't know that there's another country in the world that would by law protect the right of a lot of these groups to say what they want to say."

The Arkansas scandals have not gone away; there are still two special prosecutors, there are renewed doubts about the supposed suicide of Vincent Foster, there are further Senate and House inquiries to come and there are as many "deep throats" in Arkansas as there are in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, but the President has skillfully suggested that inquiries about Arkansas are politically motivated.

The Republicans have been forcibly reminded that Mr Clinton is not finished yet; some of them are starting to see him as a sort of Dracula in the White House, who walks again each time he seems to have been disposed of. Oklahoma has also put pressure on the official investigators. Rumours continue that the Starr inquiry is preparing further indictments of people involved in the Arkansas network; the pressures are greater than they have ever been. Some Republican voters believe that their leaders in Congress, including Robert Dole himself, the leader of the Senate, have themselves succumbed to these pressures.

The political impact of Oklahoma has certainly made President Clinton more formidable; it has not made ordinary Republicans like him any better or trust him any more. It is strange to have to compare Mr

Clinton with Franklin Roosevelt, yet the hostility of Republicans to the President is probably greater than it has been since the 1930s. For obvious party reasons, Republicans do not like Democratic Presidents, but we are now back to the total hostility which led ordinary Republicans of the 1930s to talk angrily about "that man in the White House". Most Republicans think that a second Clinton term would be "disastrous for America", and, as one of them added grimly to me, "disastrous for the world".

Oklahoma City has also altered the logic of the race for the Republican nomination. Because they are less confident, the Republicans are more concerned to find a winner; they suspect that winning the presidency in 1996 may not be as easy as they thought. Because they have been smeared by the President, the Christian conservative groups on the Right of the party have been weakened. Because there is a growing suspicion that Senate Republicans are getting too close to the White House, anti-Washington feeling is beginning to affect public attitudes to the Republican senators. For these reasons, the other main political beneficiary of the horror of Oklahoma, apart from Mr Clinton, is Governor Pete Wilson of California, who is seeking the Republican nomination.

Last Monday evening, I went to a dinner for Governor Wilson at the Willard Hotel in Washington. Even in fundraising terms, the dinner was spectacular: the chairman announced that it had raised \$450,000, with much more in pledges. So far, Governor Wilson has not even declared himself a candidate; this function was organised by an exploratory committee. But he clearly is a candidate and running hard; he is expected to make the formal announcement this month.

Three candidates for the Republican nomination have a similar level of fundraising capacity, the leader of the Senate, Bob Dole. Senator Phil Gramm of Texas and Governor Wilson himself. Each will find it easy

to raise, or may already have raised, the \$20 million to \$30 million which an effective campaign would cost. Mr Wilson's "exploratory committee" raised \$8 million in three days of telephone calling, with a further \$15 million in pledges. Most political observers think that the Republican nomination can go only to one of these three large fundraisers, and that other declared candidates, including the excellent Senator Lugar of Indiana, do not have adequate funds or organisation.

The dinner had one unusual aspect. There was no speech from Pete Wilson himself, only three words at the end of the evening: "We're gonna win." Pete Wilson is temporarily handicapped as a campaigner since a minor operation on his vocal chords, and his doctors have ordered him to stay silent. His campaign speech was delivered for him by his wife, Gail, and was so well delivered that it positively seemed an advantage. She is a far greater campaign asset for Governor Wilson than Hillary would be for Bill Clinton, even if Hillary has not actually become a liability.

Governor Wilson is known for the success of his election campaigns. He emphasises a small number of themes that have strong public support. His wife's speech stressed his experience as Governor — "others talk, he acts" — his toughness on crime, his toughness on illegal immigration, but also his concern for education, and his pragmatic "common sense and fairness" approach.

Two of the three Republican candidates, Mr Wilson and Mr Dole, are men of the Centre Right; Mr Gramm is the candidate of the Right itself. His trouble is that people do not like him on television. A large number of Republicans like his conservative views, but he sounds, and looks, like a curmudgeon. If his lack of personal appeal rules him out, and I have

William Rees-Mogg

Victory vintage

WHETHER Sir Winston Churchill would turn in his grave over the furore about his archives is arguable. But he would most definitely smile warmly over his clan's gathering at London's Guildhall next Tuesday. For MPs Winston Churchill and Nicholas Soames, Lady Soames, Marina Churchill et al will sluce back a special Sir Winston vintage champagne created in his honour.

It is, of course, a Pol Roger — the only drink of which Sir Winston truly approved. In this case the cuvée is made from the very excellent 1986 harvest. Such was Sir Winston's devotion that he named a racehorse Pol Roger. At the champagne house's Epernay HQ they like to boast of the late PM's creed of being easily satisfied because he liked only the best.

Recently Pol Roger were shaken by scurrilous tales that our Embassy in Paris had lapsed its habit of serving only their champagne — a tradition started by Lord Soames when he became Ambassador in 1969. Bollinger had been spotted on the stately premises, it was alleged, during the tenure of the present Ambassador, Sir Christopher Mallaby, whose brother is an

agent for the rival champagne house. "No. We only stock Pol Roger," sniffs an embassy spokeswoman. "But if a commercial organisation holds a function here, it can serve what it likes." Pol Roger's man in England, Bill Gunn, is reassured: "I am happy to hear it is not true. Sir Christopher has been extremely diplomatic in continuing the tradition."



Sir Winston's tippie

Addressing Westminster Journalists at the Press Gallery lunch yesterday, Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley could not resist a dig at one of their number. "The Guardian is the paper which put the 'w' into Rita," he quipped.

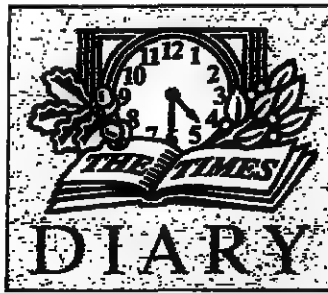
Royal store

TO SHOPPERS in the tiny Co-op in Lochgilphead, Argyll, there was something familiar about the couple from out-of-town. Casually dressed in jeans and sweat shirts, they filled a trolley with groceries while shadowed by a strapping fellow who looked like he wouldn't take any messing. Of course, it was the Princess Royal and that nice Commander Tim Laurence with detective in tow.

They were on their yacht *The Blue Doublet*. "It was a surprise because they've never been in before," says the shop manager, Albert Hasson. "They didn't give any warning, just appeared and did a full shop, fruit, vegetables, dairy products, everything. The young lad on the till was a little taken aback, but tried not to show it."

Spoils of war

SMART FOOTWORK by Lord Cranborne, currently mastermind-



ing VE-Day events so brilliantly, will ensure that the Royal British Legion receives proceeds from the sale of *One Family's War*, Lady Mayhew's collection of her family's wartime correspondence.

When Lady Mayhew's stepson, former minister Lord Mayhew, approached Cranborne for advice on a suitable charity to gain from the book sales, he instantly suggested the ex-Servicemen's Organisation. Her ladyship, slightly deaf at 97 but still thrashing Lord Mayhew at Scrabble, declares: "I am delighted — and I am most grateful to Lord Cranborne."

In spite of his lordly duties, Cranborne is in the middle of reading the book. "It is wholly absorbing, quite apart from the 'feel'. I loved the padre's talk before the end of the phoney war." Lord Mayhew's pacifist brother, Pat, was told by the said padre that a

Bible helped the Chamberlain Cabinet to make all its strategic decisions.

Stone turned

A VERY early Rolling Stones recording, circa 1961, was played for the first time in public yesterday at Christie's South Kensington. As teenagers, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards held jamming sessions at home which were taped by a friend from Dartford Grammar School. Rooting around his attic, he came across the tape, estimated to fetch up to £50,000.

The vendor, who wishes to remain anonymous, offered interesting insights into the young Jagger. "Mick was always flamboyant at school. He was well known for stretching the rules about uniform to the absolute limit. And his temper could be nasty at times if you got on the wrong side of him." He added proudly, "I was in the school choir — but Mick wasn't."

New star

VISCOUNT SLIM, son of the wartime Burma commander and President of the Burma Star Association, has much to celebrate this weekend. In addition to the VE-Day events he helped to organise,



Harriet and her son Rufus

he has just become a grandfather. Mark, his heir, and his wife, actress Harriet Harrison, are the proud parents of Rufus William Rawdon, who will one day himself inherit the title. The family is planning a proper party after the weekend events.

Asked if her offspring had been named after the heart-throb Rufus Sewell, with whom Harriet starred in the original National Theatre production of Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*, she smiles wickedly: "He might have been."

P.H.S

Time to set town halls free

Give councils autonomy, says
Graham Mather

Today's local elections should be about local councillors and local issues. Yet anyone who has been on the doorstep during the campaign knows how hard it has been to give the local questions a look-in against matters which are the province of central government.

It is not just a problem of the media. Britain's body politic does not treat local government seriously. In recent years local government has had a few prominent figures who play a part in national life; it has been engaged in a complete reconstruction of its management systems; and it has been subject to yet another attempt to redesign its boundaries.

But, above all, the grip of central government on local decisions and the way they are financed has tightened without any sign that Whitehall understands that local government can work only if it is truly local, rather than directed, second-guessed and financed like a provincial outpost of the Environment Department.

The time has come, across the political divide, to reassess the value of a truly decentralised local government system. It is no longer good enough to treat local government as if it was unreformed, inefficient and incapable of being trusted.

Since the 1980s, compulsory competitive tendering has made many local authorities more efficient than central government departments, which are struggling to catch up with modern management practices well established in many local authorities. The very success of these reforms means that Whitehall's grip can now safely be loosened.

Nobody who believes in local financial accountability can continue indefinitely to support capping. Nobody in favour of strong local council links with business can be enthusiastic about a nationalised uniform business rate. Nobody who favours decentralisation can approve of Whitehall's massively over-complicated system of standard spending assessments.

This is clearly the time to decide why local government is important and to develop policies that strengthen localism against an over-mighty Whitehall. And Britain can no longer afford to give the impression that while it preaches subsidiarity in Europe a diet of unremitting centralism is the practice at home.

A coherent policy approach would recognise that if competition, experimentation, choice and responsibility are good doctrines for the economy they should be good doctrines for local government too. This would mean a reaffirmation of a philosophical approach that values local government. Local government must be seen to have a unique role as the democratically elected body at the heart of its local community.

It is time, too, to endorse local government as a counterbalance against the dangers of centralisation and uniformity stemming from Whitehall. Differences in local service patterns should be encouraged and local government hailed as a valuable force for choice and change.

The quangos present central government with a particular challenge. There can be little question that removing the ability of local authorities to mix politicised decision-taking with over-expanded service provision was right. In education, health and elsewhere, the new systems deliver services better. Yet this does not mean there is no role at all for elected councils in these fields. It is time to encourage local authorities to fill democratic deficits in their areas. If quangos seem out of touch with local wishes, councils should be encouraged to fill the gap. They can be valuable forums for local concerns.

This cannot be achieved in a system where, as in 1993-94, local taxation accounted for only 20 per cent of local-authority income, with reallocated uniform business rate constituting 28 per cent, specific grants 11 per cent and revenue-support grant 41 per cent. It gives central government — any central government — too much grip on local decisions. It turns councils into supplicants for reallocated cash, rather than responsible bodies raising in their own communities finance which will be deployed locally.

There would be widespread support for denationalising the business rate and reconnecting local authorities with the concerns of their business communities. A locally determined business rate would be an important step back towards local financial autonomy. Then it would make sense to phase out capping and to phase down the complexities of the standard spending assessment and central government grant systems.

A new generation of local government leaders has rid most local councils of the shortcomings of the 1970s. The next step should be to hand back more financial responsibility. If the centre shows it is prepared to take local government seriously, local council elections will once more focus on the policies, performance and delivery of local rather than central government.

The author is the Conservative MEP for Hampshire North and Oxford, and a Vice-President of the Association of District Councils.



For once, Balkan matters are not as bad as they look

The Neighbour's Opera triumphs at Garsington Manor

Sports letters, page 43

OBITUARIES

Sir Michael Hordern, CBE, English stage and screen actor, died in hospital in Oxford on May 2 aged 83. He was born at Berkhamstead on October 3, 1911.

"THE Austin Princess among British actors," was how John Hurt and Michael Bryant once described Michael Hordern. The comment was not wholly flattering, but Hordern himself rather liked it and quoted it approvingly. And it contained a good deal of truth.

Hordern was extremely British: not one for the export market, although he did appear in a number of Hollywood films. He was highly polished and comfortable on stage, often called in when others had fallen by the wayside. He played many of the great classical roles: Lear, Macbeth, Anthony Absolute, Chekhov's Ivanov. And he was also adept at family favourites, including Toad (of Toad Hall) and Paddington Bear. But he was never really one for the fast lane. He preferred to cruise along gently, especially in his later years.

Few matched Michael Hordern when it came to playing English eccentrics, men carefully out of touch with their times. A keen fisherman from school days, he fitted into tweed as though he had been born wearing them. He was a natural for lairds and headmasters, but equally skilled at the seedier sort, including the barrister Margherita in John Mortimer's early play *The Dock Brief*. He had quite a lot in common with Ralph Richardson, sharing that actor's ability to steal a scene quite shamelessly: the sight of Hordern as Sir Anthony Absolute eating a boiled egg in Peter Wood's 1981 production of *The Rivals* at the National obliterated everyone else on stage.

Michael Murray Hordern had no formal theatrical training and was proud of the fact, saying that he would have been long-haired and tiresome had he gone to drama school. His background was strictly middle-class and non-theatrical. His father was an officer in the Royal Indian Marines; a close relative of his mother invented Milk of Magnesia, which helped the family finances. Michael did not see the inside of a theatre until he was 15 but he did play the Duchess of Plaza-Toro at Brighton College. That was about all he managed of distinction at school, where he was thoroughly over-

shadowed by his elder brother, Peter, who won a rugby Blue at Oxford and to play for England.

Hordern himself never made a fortune. By the time his turn came to run out Magnesia money had all but evaporated, so he turned to one of the great standbys of the impoverished middle classes: prep school teaching. This did not appeal and he became instead the Educational Supply Association. Simultaneously there developed in him a taste for amateur theatricals. Hordern sold blackboards and chalk by day and rushed to put on greasypaint in the evening.

He was 25 by the time he decided to throw up the ESA and take a job at the Savoy Theatre as assistant stage manager for a play by L. Du Garde Peach. For a play by Peach was a big name, but not big enough and the play ran for only ten days. Hordern then found himself playing a role in a play by Stephen Murray's *The Mile End Road* before he got a contract with the Little Theatre in Bristol. It was there that he met his future wife, Eve Mortimer.

Before the Second World War declared Hordern managed to make a first of what were to be more than a hundred screen appearances. He was a competent British thriller, *The Girl in the News*, directed by Carol Reed and starring Emyl Williams and Margaret Lockwood.

On the outbreak of the war Hordern joined up and was stationed in the Royal Navy. Much of his service was spent aboard the carrier *Illustrious*. His first captain was somewhat surprised when Hordern put him in charge of "ship's entertainments". By good chance a certain Robert Eddison was also on board and the two officers entertained. Hordern's party piece was *A Lady Sings*, a mildly suggestive number beginning "I've got a little pussy".

On demobilisation Hordern realised that he had to speed to make up for lost time. He was in his mid-thirties, and unlike many of his contemporaries, he had had no secondment to "home entertainments". He played *Tea and Sympathy* at the Lyric Theatre in Palmer's Green and

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Tea

Business is split over prospect of interest rate rise

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BUSINESS is divided today on the prospect of a new rise in interest rates, with some business leaders seeing a rate rise as necessary, while others view it as either marginal or damaging to economic recovery and especially increased investment.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, will meet tomorrow on monetary policy, with most City economists predicting they will agree to a further increase in interest rates.

Before the meeting, business leaders are putting forward a wide range of views on the impact of another increase in base rates. The Institute of Directors today concedes rates will probably have to rise, but says they should then be close to their peak.

In its latest business survey, the IoD says economic growth of 4 per cent is "unsustainable", especially with inflation rising above its target range and a weak exchange rate adding to existing cost pressures.

Tim Melville-Ross, IoD Director-General, said: "The case for a further rise in

interest rates is not overwhelming, but given these factors it would be difficult to object if, as seems likely, the Chancellor and the Governor agree to a further half-point rise."

The institute's survey shows that business confidence has seen a "modest upturn" over the last two months, with a third of directors now optimistic about the economy compared with 28 per cent in February. Political uncertainty remains a barrier to any big improvement in confidence.

But Howard Davies, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, said yesterday a half-point rise would not hit confidence.

Mr Davies — who is set to take over in September as deputy Governor of the Bank — said: "I think a half-point rate rise is unlikely to have a big impact on consumer confidence. Half a point here or there — it is difficult to argue that it would have a major effect."

But machine-tool manufacturers gave warning that a rate rise would be likely to hit investment. Simon Brown, Di-

rector-General of the Machine Tool Technologies Association, said: "A lot of our members' smaller customers are still recovering from the damage of the recession, and have relatively weak balance sheets. Another interest rate rise, from a confidence point of view, would have a damaging effect."

Small business leaders urged the Chancellor and the Governor not to raise rates. Dr Bernard Juby, financial affairs chairman of the Federation of Small Business, said: "A further rise in the level of interest rates would be seriously damaging to the small business sector."

In a letter to the Chancellor, chartered surveyors give warning that a further rise in rates would probably tip the construction industry back into recession.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors forecasts today that the industry is likely to see a further 15,000 job losses next year, and says: "A new rate rise could be a knockout blow to the industry which our forecast shows is extremely fragile."



Sir Neil Shaw, chairman, at Tate & Lyle's refinery at Silvertown, east London

Tate & Lyle beats forecasts

TATE & LYLE, the world's biggest sugar company, yesterday beat City forecasts with a 17 per cent leap in profits and a 7 per cent rise in interim dividend (Sarah Bagnall writes). The shares gained 3p, to 443p, and analysts upgraded full-year forecasts.

Tate & Lyle reported a rise in pre-tax profits of £152.8 million, up from £130.9 million, in the 26 weeks to March 25. Analysts had been looking for

profits of £140 million to £150 million. The rise in interim dividend, from 4.6p to 5p, also topped City forecasts. It is due on July 18, from earnings of 21.1p a share, up from 17.9p.

Sir Neil Shaw, chairman, said that he was confident about full-year prospects. He said: "Growth in demand and cost-control initiatives continue to benefit our cereal sweetener and starch activities." Although the North Ameri-

can sugar market is still suffering from over-supply, the group's European businesses are performing well.

Trading in the second half is not expected to be as strong as the first half, helped by fine performances by the sweetener businesses, Staley, in the US, and Amylum, in Europe. "Staley's profit performance was excellent," Sir Neil said.

Tempos, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Dillon Read to buy back Baring holding

ING, the Dutch banking group that bought Barings from its administrators in March, told its shareholders yesterday that Dillon Read, the US investment bank, will buy back the 40 per cent of its shares owned by Barings "in phases". In the meantime Dillon Read will continue to co-operate with Barings, said ING chairman, said. He added that Barings will contribute £35 million a year to ING's earnings over the longer term, but he did not give any timescale. He repeated his forecast that Barings would be neutral for ING's earnings per share in 1995 and positive in 1996. ING bought Barings for £660 million.

The British Bankers' Association told MPs yesterday that it did not believe that radical changes in the framework of banking supervision were needed. In evidence to the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee's inquiry into the derivatives markets, the BBA said the markets are an integral part of the financial system.

Unilever issues warning

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch food and household products group, yesterday issued a warning that the strong guilder and weak pound and dollar will have a "negative influence" on first-quarter results reported in the Dutch currency. Morris Tabaksblat, co-chairman, said, however, that it was too early to draw any conclusions about the year as a whole. The first-quarter figures are due out on Tuesday. Sir Michael Perry, co-chairman, said a single European currency had many attractions, but had to come about as a "consequence of integration, not a prelude to it".

British Midland soars

BRITISH MIDLAND, the UK's second-largest scheduled service airline, increased pre-tax profits to £4.4 million in 1994 from £1.1 million the previous year, the company reported yesterday. An 11 per cent increase in total revenue passengers boosted turnover to £404.5 million from £371.1 million. Total capacity increased by 2 per cent, leading to an improved overall load factor of 61.4 per cent, up from 56.3 per cent. Sir Michael Bishop, chairman, said British Midland was "well-positioned to take advantage of continuing national and European economic recovery".

Topic deal by ICV

ICV, the privately owned information services provider, is consolidating in the UK after reaching agreement to acquire the Topic Plus and TAQ equity information services of Telekurs, owned by a consortium of Swiss banks. The deal, which should be completed by the end of June, will see ICV's Topic terminals in the UK grow from 6,000 to about 6,500. Two years ago the Stock Exchange entered into agreements with ICV and Telekurs for enhanced versions of its original Topic share price and company news services.

Merck's sales up 13%

MERCK, the family-owned German pharmaceuticals and chemicals group that plans to raise DM25 billion this autumn by a share issue in London, Frankfurt and Zurich, reported a 13 per cent rise in first-quarter sales, in spite of the strong mark. In 1994, Merck boosted net profit by 84 per cent, to DM318 million, on a 6.6 per cent rise in sales, to DM5.66 billion. Excluding acquisitions, first-quarter turnover rose by 10 per cent, with higher volumes responsible for the growth. There is no current link with Merck of America.

Beattie stake dwindles

THE family behind the Beattie department store group is to surrender its voting control. Under a plan intended to give fairer voting rights, the Wolverhampton-based store group James Beattie will enfranchise more shareholders. The Beattie family will see its stake dwindle to 19.4 per cent, assuming the voting and share buy-back plan is approved. The group announced pre-tax profits fell to £6.3 million in the year to January 31, (£6.6 million). Total dividends are 6.4p against 6.2p, with a 4.9p final to be paid July 10.

Currencies hit Nestlé

NESTLÉ, the Swiss food group, yesterday reported business was going well so far this year, but currency uncertainties made it difficult to forecast 1995 performance. Helmut Maucher, chairman and chief executive, said he was still hoping for full-year results broadly the same as in 1994. If the current situation in the currency market persists, it could dent business by 10 to 15 per cent, he said. Sales fell 1.5 per cent to SF13 billion (£7.1 billion) in the first quarter, reflecting the currency fluctuations.

Jobless like Virgin but not British Gas

By Our Industrial Editor

THE image problems suffered by British Gas are underlined today when even people without a job cite it as the company they would least like to work for. Virgin, the entertainment and transport chain, is listed as the most attractive employer.

In a national survey of unemployed people, a fifth of those questioned admit to having contemplated crime. Tony Blair, the Labour leader, is seen as the most caring political leader and Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, is seen as the least so.

The placing of British Gas at the top of the list of companies cited as the one people would least like to work for is, at 32 per cent, followed by British Rail (29 per cent) and British Nuclear Fuels (10 per cent).

Virgin is cited by 21 per cent of those surveyed as the company they would most like to work for, followed by the BBC at 15 per cent and BP at 13 per cent.

The survey, carried out by JobSearch UK, a national jobs guide paper among a claimed 10,000 of its readers, puts Richard Branson, the head of Virgin, far ahead as the most admired businessman, with 83 per cent of the total, followed by Sir John Harvey-Jones at 8 per cent and Lord Hanson at 3 per cent. Anita Roddick, the founder of Body Shop, is the most admired businesswoman.

Mr Branson is also the person unemployed people would most like to swap lives with. With 40 per cent of the votes, Mr Blair is seen as the most caring politician and Mr Portillo as the least caring by 31 per cent. Mr Blair is followed by Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal leader, with 32 per cent, and Mr Portillo by Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, at 25 per cent. John Major is said by 43 per cent of those surveyed to be the "most irritating" politician.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Sale	Rate
Australia \$	2.32	2.15
Austria Sch	16.84	15.14
Belgium Fr	48.50	44.50
Canada \$	2.304	2.144
Cyprus Cyp	0.750	0.685
Denmark Kr	8.36	7.55
Finland Mk	7.42	6.77
France Fr	8.36	7.55
Germany Dm	2.36	2.17
Greece Dr	380.00	355.00
Hong Kong \$	13.14	12.14
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel	5.2011	4.50
Italy Lit	2805.00	2550.00
Japan Yen	149.00	135.00
Netherlands Gld	0.936	0.850
Norway Kr	2.841	2.411
Portugal Esc	200.00	180.00
Spain Ptas	166.39	150.00
Sweden Kr	12.45	11.65
Switzerland Fr	1.96	1.78
Turkey Lira	1.773	1.583
USA \$	1.773	1.583

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

B.A.T INDUSTRIES

Record first quarter profit

Three months unaudited results to 31 March 1995

PRE-TAX PROFIT	£498m	+19%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	9.6p	+16%

- The record first quarter profit of £498 million is a very encouraging start to the year, with excellent results from our tobacco businesses and a solid performance in financial services.
- Total tobacco trading profit increased by 27 per cent to £335 million. Profit from the US, which included American Tobacco for the first time, rose by almost 50 per cent and there was a good recovery in Brazil. Group cigarette volumes were 24 per cent higher.
- Total financial services trading profit rose by 10 per cent to £240 million, with the general business up 7 per cent to £135 million and the life and investment business 14 per cent higher at £105 million.
- "All in all, the year has got off to a very good start for B.A.T Industries. As I said at our AGM last week, I expect there to be a substantial increase in profits at the pre-tax level, compared to 1994's £1,802 million. Despite a more normal tax rate in 1995, we will continue to reward shareholders with a significant real increase in the dividend."

Sir Patrick Sheehy, Chairman

The full quarterly report is being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, B.A.T Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

مكتبة من الأصل

Investment banking going cheap □ Guinness aids Thalidomide victims □ C&W demands high price for Mercury

The woes of Warburg

THE negotiations over SG Warburg have all the elegance of a haggling in a Moroccan rug market. A day after Warburg reluctantly announced it was plotting to sell its investment banking business to Swiss Bank Corporation, it has effectively told the market that the business is not worth that much anyway, since profits collapsed last week. SBC must have already guessed that Warburg had a tough year in 1994 — most international investment banks did — but Warburg seems to be going out of its way to undermine its own negotiating position and ensure it is sold off as cheaply as possible.

Now Mercury Asset Management seems to have caught the souk fever and is eyeing up anyone with deep enough pockets to take it over. It would struggle hard though to sell itself as short as its parent.

In the past six months, Warburg has handled its affairs with breathtaking incompetence. Some time around last autumn, when profits were plunging, the group seems to have panicked. It threw itself into ill-fated talks with Morgan Stanley and rationalised the move to investors as an unmissable opportunity to gain access to American retail investors.

Now the suitors are SBC and the story has changed. Warburg

now claims to believe that the days of the independent investment bank are numbered, thanks to their lack of capital, and it is obliged to throw in its lot with the first decent-sized commercial bank that comes along. This belief stems in part from the collapse of Barings. The Bank of England's refusal to stand behind one of the City's most respected merchant banks has profoundly shocked its peer group. As ING came in to sweep up the pieces of Barings, the inevitable conclusion was that the future belonged to the big battalions who could absorb Leeson-sized losses without going bust.

This argument is persuasive, but deeply flawed. The only thing that capital allows an investment bank to do is lose it. Most of Warburg's most successful businesses, particularly corporate finance, are not capital intensive. There is no divine rule that requires every investment bank to be sheltered in the coat-tails of a commercial bank.

While Warburg's strategic vision can at least be respected, its tactics are astonishingly naive. If

the bank believes it has no long-term future, it owes it to its shareholders to repair the current damage to its profit and loss account through judicious cost-cutting and revenue growth. It could then look for a buyer in two to three years' time when the business is back on an even keel, and demand a much higher price. Warburg's own corporate financiers would advise any of their clients to do this. By pulling the emergency cable now and jumping into the arms of SBC, which is only really interested in the bank's client list, Warburg is selling its shareholders, and the whole City, short.

Charity is good for you

THE GMB union, one of Britain's biggest and brightest, is thinking of challenging donations of big companies such as Hanson to the Conservative Party, on the grounds that they may be *ultra vires*. As *The Times* revealed on Monday, the GMB reckons this might hold if companies derive no clear benefit



from specific Tory policies, or if they have not traded well under recent Tory rule.

Presumably, the GMB will not challenge charitable giving on the same narrow financial grounds. If it did, Guinness might be in trouble. It has just pledged £37.5 million over 15 years to top up the Thalidomide Trust, which needs more money to help thalidomide victims lead decent lives than was expected when it was set up.

In no sense did Guinness have a legal obligation. Legal settlements were made by Distillers decades before Guinness bought it. It could be claimed that Guinness had a moral obligation as inheritor of Distillers, one-time parent of the company that

sold thalidomide to the mothers of trust beneficiaries. Sceptics might also note that Guinness has earned gratitude rather than the public approbrium that might have attended a protest at its annual meeting in a fortnight's time. Guinness itself cited the Irish brewer's long tradition of charitable works.

Such traditions, sometimes associated with the same strong-minded entrepreneurs who funded the Tory party, show the other side of the "improper" use of shareholders' funds. As the old patriarchs gradually retire from the scene, many companies are dropping donations to party funds. Some are as fed up as voters in by-elections, and no longer see Labour as a big threat. Others reckon such matters should be left to individual shareholders.

Fortunately, few extend that attitude to charitable donations, usually much bigger than political favours. Instead, more are convinced of their charitable obligations, say to local communities, and realise that appearing to be a good citizen helps their image, particularly with staff.

Who knows what shareholders think? But Guinness shares rose by 1.2 per cent yesterday, outpacing the market average.

AT&T short on sweet talk

IT IS common knowledge that Cable and Wireless and AT&T have been chatting to each other about the future of Mercury Communications. C&W is not wedded to its 80 per cent stake in Mercury, and AT&T, now equipped with a full telecoms operating licence, is looking for a way to enter the British market in style.

It is also assumed that any deal struck between the two would favour AT&T, which, drawing on its New York pedigree, is well-known as a bully when it comes to negotiating foreign acquisitions and alliances. But this time around, AT&T appears to have met its match.

C&W has made it clear to AT&T that it wants more than just cash for Mercury; a sweetener or two would be nice. C&W,

for example, is open to suggestions on how AT&T could help strengthen its American business. In relative terms C&W has a greater presence in Latvia than it does in the US, where it owns only about 1 per cent of the long-distance market.

AT&T has either come up short on ideas, or is playing hardball on the price. Whatever the case, the British company, after more than a year of talks, isn't budging. Neither can C&W realistically deliver its entire stake in Mercury. The political outcry would be furious, since C&W has been built up as a British telecoms champion. C&W is gambling that AT&T needs Mercury more than C&W needs AT&T. Mercury has certainly been bruised in its battle with BT, but C&W isn't about to let it go cheaply.

Hello, it's over

Hurrah, the property recession is over! Forget the rotten housing market, empty shops and falling commercial rents because the golden hello is back in fashion. Frogmore Estates is paying millions to secure the services of a surveyor by purchasing his firm. Less fortunate estate agents should stop waiting for their redundancy cheques and post their CVs to Frogmore.



All smiles: Martin Broughton, BAT chief executive, left, and David Alvey, finance director, yesterday

BAT reaches a record £498m in first quarter

By COLIN NARBROUGH

BAT INDUSTRIES, the tobacco-to-insurance group, made a record pre-tax profit of £498 million in the first quarter as profits from tobacco surged, despite a trend against smoking in many countries.

Martin Broughton, the chief executive, vigorously attacked the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) and the Government for the difficult conditions in Britain for BAT's financial services arm, whose trading profit was only 10 per cent ahead at £240 million.

On the issue of mis-selling of personal pensions, he said the PIA was still digging up new cases and even asking for companies to scrutinise deals where the would-be customer withdrew during the cooling-off period. The level of rein-

statement costs envisaged was also "totally unrealistic". Mr Broughton said the Government had to take a lead on the reinstatement cost question and the PIA should give guidance on how costs are calculated. If no action were taken, consumers would turn to the courts.

BAT called the 19 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the first three months a "very encouraging start" to 1995. Earnings per share rose 16 per cent to 9.6p. The first-quarter net profit climbed £51 million to £319 million.

Sir Patrick Sheehy, the chairman, promised the annual meeting last week "significant real increase in the dividend".

Mr Broughton said tobacco

was the first quarter's "star performer", with trading profits up 27 per cent at £335 million and total cigarette volumes up 24 per cent. B&W, BAT's US subsidiary, whose results for the first time included American Tobacco, bought last year for \$1 billion, saw profits rise almost 50 per cent.

Brazil had a strong recovery. Mr Broughton said on a like-for-like basis, cigarette volumes were up 14 per cent and BAT expected to raise its world market share in cigarettes from 10.6 per cent at the end of 1994 as it expands in Asia, Eastern Europe, Middle East and Latin America. David Alvey, finance director, said the integration of American Tobacco with BAT's other US tobacco operations was

"on track" to give \$100 million savings this year. In financial services, general business rose 7 per cent to £135 million and life and investment business 14 per cent to £105 million. Farmers, the US insurance arm, raised profits 14 per cent to £140 million.

Eagle Star's profit was flat at £37 million. Although investment returns were higher, softer rates and falling premiums in the general business caused a drop in the underwriting result, with UK personal lines down £10 million. Allied Dunbar maintained its contribution to group profit at £44 million, despite a 24 per cent fall in premium income to £346 million.

Times, page 28

Frogmore buys new director

FROGMORE Estates, the property company, is buying itself a new managing director for up to £3 million. (Carl Mortished writes).

Paul White is to join the board of Frogmore after selling White Druce & Brown, a firm of consultant surveyors of which he owns a half share, for up to £6 million in cash and shares.

White Druce & Brown had total revenues in the year to June 30 of just £1 million. Frogmore, which has net assets of £252 million and made profits of £16 million last year, said it had bought the firm of surveyors from Chromeland — a company owned by Mr White and Joe Malvisi who is also joining Frogmore — for £4 million because it had a high regard for the business and its management.

Progress at Fox gives boost to News Corp

By OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

CONTINUING strong gains in the Fox television business in America helped The News Corporation, the Australian international media group, to lift net after-tax profits by 24 per cent to \$964 million (£435 million) in the nine months to March 31. Worldwide sales grew by 6.5 per cent, to \$8.97 billion.

In the latest three months, sales accelerated, gaining 11 per cent to \$2.9 billion. Group net profit, helped also by higher British newspaper profits, grew by 28 per cent to \$529 million before abnormal items left \$525 million (£228 million). Earnings rose from 7 cents to 9 cents per share. Profits would have shown a sharper rise in the group accounts but for the weakness of the American dollar. However, profits were slightly higher than some

analysts had expected, partly because of a low tax charge.

Profit gains came from the dominant American businesses, which increased operating profit before tax and interest from \$5209 million to \$5275 million in the latest quarter and from \$5767 million to \$5879 million over the nine months, out of a total of \$1,214 million (\$1,165 million).

UK profits were up in the third quarter, but still stagnant over nine months.

In Australia and the Pacific Rim, where the group is still at an early stage in developing its Star TV interests, profit stabilised in the latest quarter after falling markedly in the first half.

In America, both the owned Fox television stations and the Fox broadcasting network performed strongly. Operating

profit in the third quarter was 50 per cent higher than a year earlier. Television station revenue was 27 per cent higher. Twentieth Century Fox film profits dropped in the third quarter, however, because of two disappointing launches.

In Britain, where News Corp owns *The Times*, as well as *The Sunday Times*, *Today*, *The Sun* and *News of the World*, newspaper interests raised operating profits by more than a third compared with the same quarter a year ago, boosted by a 14 per cent gain in revenue.

Over the nine-month period, all the group's British titles improved their advertising revenue, with *The Times* showing the strongest gains. News Corp said that circulation of *The Times* had reached 630,000, 34 per cent more than in March last year.

Three lead Abbey as N&P suitors

By PATRICIA TEHAN

ALLIANCE & Leicester, the Nationwide and the Woolwich building societies have emerged as preferred front runners for a link-up with National & Provincial, Britain's ninth biggest society.

The society appears keen to merge with another building society and then to convert to bank status. Alastair Lyons, chief executive of N&P, has refused to comment on which organisations he is talking to. But he said yesterday that he was "surprised and irritated" with the way that Abbey National expressed an interest in buying the society.

He said Abbey had made a public statement about its intentions when a meeting had already been organised. He was "irritated by the smoke screens" put up by Abbey and its suggestions that "building society boards have their heads in the sand and are not acting in the best interests of their members". Mr Lyons and Peter Birch,



Lyons: irritated

Abbey's chief executive, met for the first time on Monday to discuss the issue. Mr Lyons said yesterday the meeting was "amiable", but he was "surprised how unformulated Peter Birch's thinking was. He said that N&P would not make a decision on its way forward until it had seen the proposals from potential bidders in the middle of this month. Even then, he said, 'there is no set timescale'.

Prestige lures man who revived Parker

By MARTIN BARROW

JACQUES MARGRY, the executive who transformed a £10.3 million investment in Parker Pens into a £285 million windfall, has been lured out of semi-retirement to restore the fortunes of another ailing household name, Prestige.

Mr Margry heads the management team put in place at Prestige, one of Britain's leading manufacturers of kitchenware, after its acquisition from Gallaher in a deal believed to be worth about £37 million, announced yesterday.

Prestige's stainless steel cookware, pressure cookers and kitchen tools are still considered essential accessories in homes. But the business has incurred annual losses of between £5 million and £10 million over the past five years, on sales of about £60 million annually.

Cost reductions are anticipated at the company's UK manufacturing operation in Burnley, where about 400

people are employed. Another 600 people work for Prestige outside Britain. Mr Margry, who becomes chairman of Prestige, led the acquisition of Parker Pens from Manpower in 1986. He twice attempted to float it on the stock market without success and saw a proposed sale to Pentland Group collapse. Then, in 1993, a deal was struck with Gillette.

That deal named Schroder Ventures, original backers of the buy-out from Manpower, a profit of £110 million. Jon Moulton, formerly head of Schroders, now calls the shots at Apex Partners, the venture capital group that has financed the acquisition of Prestige. □ Gallaher continues to negotiate the sale of Forbuys, the 700-strong chain of confectionery and tobacco outlets. There are at least four offers by venture capital groups on the table, in addition to a bid by the existing management.

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TT2/5

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares hit new high as Dow sets the standard

THE London stock market managed to extend this week's record-breaking run with even the most pessimistic traders forecasting that further gains are on the way. After reaching an intra-trading high for the year of 3,267.3 earlier in the day, the FT-SE 100 index was eventually left sporting a rise of 14.4 to close at a new 1995 high of 3,262.6. It was supported to a certain extent by an early gain of almost 30 points in the Dow Jones average during early trading in New York.

The only wobble came around luncheon, after S.G. Warburg issued its third profit warning within the space of seven months and Thorn EMI snatched talk of a bid for its music business. But prices quickly recovered their poise, cheered by some positive trading statements from three leading companies. Once again, turnover levels left a lot to be desired with less than 600 million shares changing hands by the close of business. But this week's positive performance from the equity market has shown up a number of short positions among market-makers.

Even so S.G. Warburg remained the main talking point in the Square Mile yesterday. Less than 24 hours after announcing it was considering a break-up bid for its investment banking arm from the Swiss Bank Corporation, came news of yet another profits warning. The group said that pre-tax profits for the year to March 31, just ended, are expected to be significantly below the current range of market estimates. Brokers had already braced themselves for a sharp fall on the previous year's £297 million, with most of them looking for pre-tax profits of between £90 million and £150 million. They have now revised their estimates down to between £40 million and £75 million.

The expected loss of around £100 million appears to have scuppered any remaining hopes of an all-out bid for the company. Even so Warburg ended the day just 7p lower at 814p. Low stock market volumes have meant a tough time for the investment banking arm, but Warburg's quoted offshoot, Mercury Asset Management, has reached expectations. The announcement also means that Swiss Bank will reduce the amount it is ready to pay for the business.



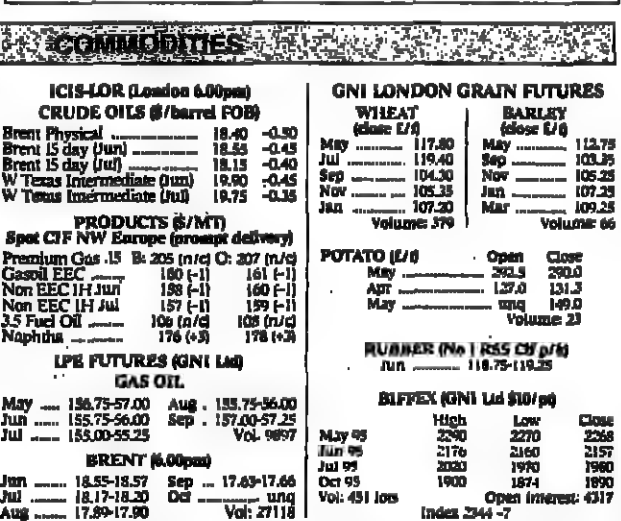
No EMI sale: Sir Colin Southgate, Thorn EMI chairman

A figure of up to £800 million had been mentioned. Mercury Asset Management finished the session 17p lower at 844p. It was MAM which objected to last December's proposed merger with Morgan Stanley, the chairman, said the current year had started well with the group's pubs, beef-eater restaurants and hotel division all trading well. Whitbread planned to create an extra 5,000 jobs.

Better than expected full-year figures lifted Whitbread 10p to 573p as pre-tax profits grew almost 18 per cent to £275.4 million. Sir Michael Angus, the chairman, said the current year had started well with the group's pubs, beef-eater restaurants and hotel division all trading well. Whitbread planned to create an extra 5,000 jobs.

Reuters, the international information group, finished 20p better at 491p as it prepared to repair some of the damage created by last week's statement about falling revenue. Last night the group gave a presentation to the New York investment community at which it showed off its latest technology.

A strong performance from its tobacco division lifted first-quarter pre-tax profits from BAT Industries 19 per cent to £498 million. Profits from tobacco were 27 per cent ahead, helped by a first time contribution from last year's acquisition of American Tobacco and a recovery in Brazil. The contribution from its financial services operations, which includes Eagle Star, was also strong.



division to Walt Disney. A statement issued by the company following the intense speculation of the past few days said the company was not in discussions with any third party, and has no intention of entering upon such discussions. Reports in the US financial press claimed that Walt Disney was ready to offer at least £3 billion for the music business.

THORN EMI: NO PLANS TO SELL MUSIC BUSINESS

FT all-share index (rebased)

Share price

May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

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May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

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Allied Dunbar and Farmers in the US, rose 10 per cent to £240 million. Sir Patrick Sheehy, chairman, reiterated last week's comments of a substantial increase in full-year profits. The shares ended 3p lower at 474p.

Tate & Lyle firmed 3p to 445p, cheered by a 7 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 5p. This followed a 17 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £152.8 million. Most of the improvement came from Europe, while North America remained flat.

Micro Focus dropped 37p to 733p after announcing plans to shed 75 jobs as part of a major cost-cutting programme designed to save £8 million a year. Net revenues in the first quarter dropped from £20.2 million to £17.9 million, producing a net loss of £4.2 million.

The electricity distributors remained overshadowed by the continuing row about electricity charges and the uncertainty generated by Professor Stephen Littlechild's determination to impose tougher price controls. Falls were recorded in East Midlands, 10p to 643p, Eastern, 15p to 622p, Manweb, 6p to 675p, Midlands, 10p to 630p, Northern, 10p to 810p, South West, 8p to 664p, Southern, 14p to 650p and Yorkshire, 10p to 653p.

T&N, the automotive parts group, stood out with a gain of 10p to 164p amid talk of progress about asbestos claims.

GILT-EDGED: Prices enjoyed a better session after being squeezed higher in thin trading. Most issues closed near their best of the day following some better than expected leading indicators in the US.

In futures, the June series of the long gilt finished £17.32 higher at £104.4, with turnover levels continuing to bump along the bottom. By the close only 31,000 contracts had been traded.

Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2013 closed £17.32 to £97.14, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £4 better at £98.16.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street extended their gains into late morning, continuing optimism that the economy was heading for a soft landing. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was up 17.29 points at 4,346.17.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4346.17 (+17.29)
S&P Composite 517.20 (+2.40)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 8299.87 (+87.58)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 8299.87 (+87.58)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 424.30 (+1.80)

Sydney:
AO 2037.6 (+11.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2028.68 (+7.24)

Singapore:
Straits 2066.35 (+1.16)

Brussels:
General 7479.37 (+53.14)

Paris:
CAC-40 1971.07 (+34.22)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 409.80 (+0.82)

London:
FT 100 2483.9 (+13.8)

FT 250 2483.9 (+13.8)

FT 100 Mid 250 2483.9 (+13.8)

FT 100 All-Share 2483.9 (+13.8)

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FT 10

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Getting a British bride

SG WARBURG'S winter of discontent, during which it was walked up the aisle, only to be left at the altar, is hardly spent when wedding bells ring again. The latest banns that link SG Warburg with Swiss Bank Corporation are not without interest for who is included in the wedding party. SBC's advisers are that very well connected merchant bank Hambro Magan. While the bank gurus are far too self-effacing to admit to any individual role, I do detect the hand of George Magan, Murray Orr, and Sir Michael Richardson in helping to find a British bride for Switzerland's leading bank. Sir Michael, who turned 70 on April 9, has clearly lost none of his corporate touch. He joined Hambro Magan from Smith New Court/NM Rothschild only four months ago, and upped a Warburg deal. Meanwhile, Warburg's dowry becomes thinner with yet another profits warning. Annual results that were otherwise due on May 29 will, Warburg says, now be out no later than May 25. If I were a betting man, I would say results, together with SBC's formal document, could be out within the next ten days. Watch this space.

Spielberg saga

WHO would dare accuse Steven Spielberg of being a rip-off merchant? Apparently, a Florida-based company, which this week filed a lawsuit claiming he and his partners Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen stole its name, DreamWorks, Spielberg's new studio, has already generated close to \$1 billion in investment cash and could not doubt afford to pay the paltry \$25 million demanded by Dreamworks, of Boca Raton, as compensation for the "reverse confusion" that clients could suffer. Dreamworks says it has organised promotional events for films such as *Dick Tracy* and *Batman*.



Spielberg: under fire

Fisons switch

LONG and faithful service obviously counts for little these days. Fisons wants a change of auditors from Price Waterhouse to Arthur Andersen. The annual report graciously notes: "The board wishes to express their appreciation to Price Waterhouse who have been the company's auditors since 1929."

Double delight

A DAY of double celebration for the Ellen family yesterday. Sue, managing director of BUPA Health Services, was one of the finalists in the *Veave Citequot Business Women of the Year* award, and husband Simon was made head of fixed interest and treasury at SG Warburg.

ACROSS the pond, *Saatchi & Saatchi* is not taking the desertion of British Airways lying down. A large advert in *The New York Times* makes cryptic reference to "The World's Favourite Airline", the famous *Saatchi* slogan for BA. It reads simply: "So, who wants to be the next world's favourite?"

COLIN CAMPBELL

Why raising interest rates will be the wrong decision

During the past two weeks, the Bank's attitude on the outlook for inflation has changed rapidly

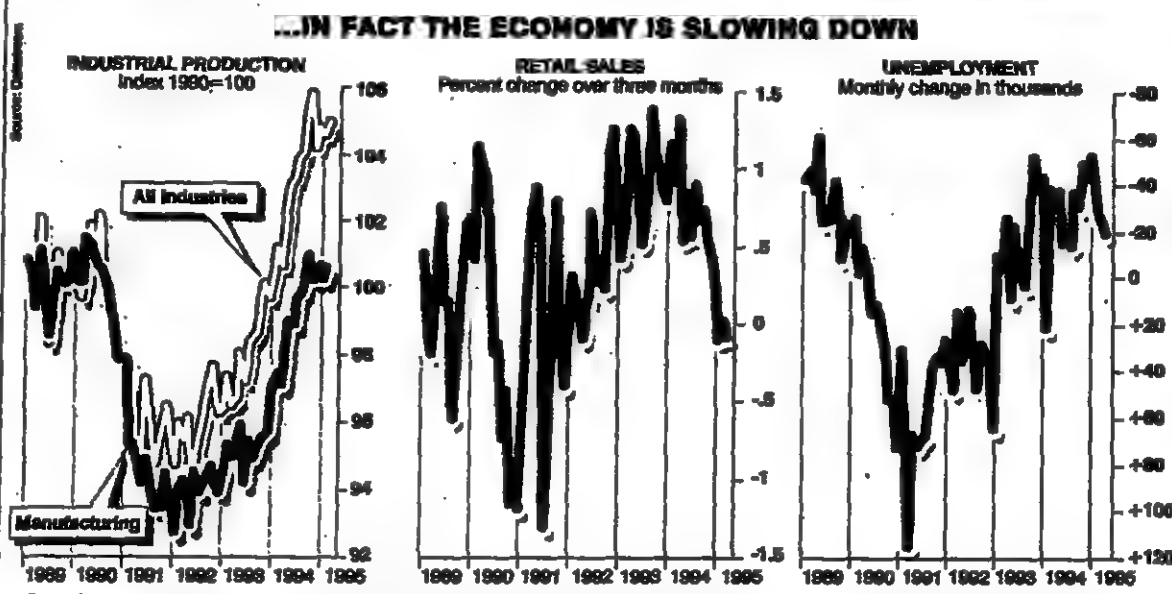
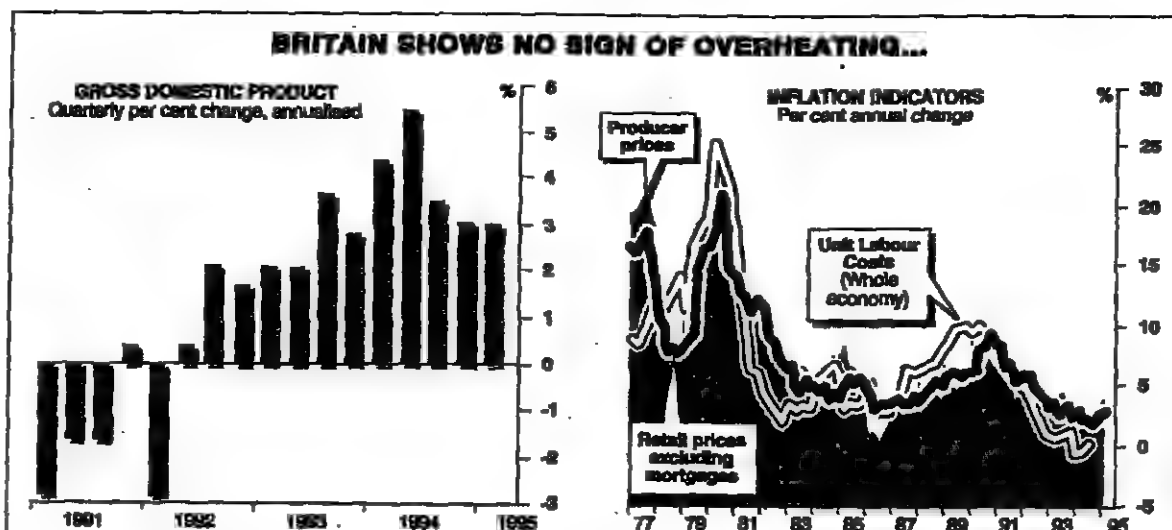
Tomorrow morning the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England will almost certainly decide to raise British interest rates. They will almost certainly be wrong. How do I know that Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George will make this supposedly top-secret decision? Because to do otherwise would be to disappoint the foreign exchange market which, despite Mr Clarke's denials in Washington, continues to haunt his nightmares. In a poll of financial analysts conducted last week by Reuters, 19 out of 20 predicted a half-point rise in interest rates at tomorrow's monthly monetary meeting. For the Government that will presumably be decisive! Until a few weeks ago, the City believed the Bank could afford to be quite relaxed about the inflation outlook. But that changed abruptly in the past two weeks. The reasons for this sudden change of fashion are worth considering in detail, both because they shed light on the likely decision tomorrow and because they show why this decision will probably be wrong.

In the first three months of this year, the economy seemed to be slowing. This was evidenced by a run of weak figures on retail sales, industrial output, and employment. These are illustrated in the bottom row of charts. Many more such statistics, including housing starts, car sales, and the official leading indicators could have been added, if space had permitted, to reinforce the message that economic growth was flattening out.

Just as important as the weak indicators being published by the Government were the sound theoretical reasons why a slowdown was taking place. Consumers and industrialists were reacting to the huge tax increases imposed last spring in textbook fashion, with a lag of about six months. On top of this, the economy had to contend with a monetary tightening from September and a further tax increase this year. The deflationary impact of these measures was hardly even beginning to be felt.

Against this deflationary background, it was starting to look like the Chancellor had made a serious error of judgment when he raised interest rates in January from 6.25 to 6.75 per cent. The idea that interest rates might soon have to rise even further looked far-fetched, especially since reported inflation showed no serious acceleration and wage settlements were flat or even falling, rather than taking off as the pessimists had predicted late last year.

The only small cloud on the monetary horizon was the weakness of sterling. While everyone, from the Chancellor down, had agreed by the end of last year that a weak currency could often be thoroughly healthy, even the most enthusiastic supporters of devaluation (myself included) recognised that a point might be reached when a weak currency became too much of a good thing. During the winter that point seemed to be coming into view. The export-led manufacturing sector was showing signs of overheating and there was some tentative evidence of inflationary pay settlements spreading into



the rest of the economy from the busy exporters and industrial firms. But despite the pound's further sharp fall in March and early April, the concern about the currency was, if anything, abating until a few weeks ago.

By mid-April there were at least three reasons for taking a more relaxed view about sterling. First, the extraordinary volatility of the dollar-mark and dollar-yen exchange rates in March and April made it absolutely obvious that the pressure on the pound had nothing to do with economic, or even political, conditions in Britain. It was purely an incidental by-product of the dollar problem — or more precisely the problems of the yen and the mark. Secondly, the unexpected slowdown in manufacturing output and in most indicators of consumer demand from January onwards, implied that a further currency boost to the export sector would no longer be welcome. The idea that the manufacturing sector might soon be in danger of overheating seemed increasingly ridiculous, given that manufacturing output showed no growth at all in the five months to February. In fact, despite all the ballyhoo about Britain's unprecedented manufacturing revival, the index of manufacturing in February was still below the level it had reached before the recession almost five years ago.

Finally, the turmoil in the currency markets was itself threatening the strong growth in Europe that all forecasters had expected to sustain the British recovery. With industrial prospects in Europe deteriorating sharply, British exporters could use a low pound to increase their share of these

markets, even in the absence of strong growth in Germany and France.

Altogether, the British economy seemed set for a steady interest rate, a slight slowdown and then a renewed period of export-led growth. But on April 19, perceptions suddenly switched. That day saw the publication of the minutes of the March 8 monetary meeting between the Governor and the Chancellor. Mr George was reported as uttering the following ominous phrases:

"The present disturbance in the foreign exchange markets had had an effect on sterling which, if it persisted, would need to be taken into account. The possibility could not be excluded that the Governor would have to revert to the Chancellor if the situation were to deteriorate."

The economy will run the danger of a serious slowdown

In speaking these words — and choosing to record them in the minutes despite an explicit agreement that matters relating to currency management could be left out — Mr George seemed to be sending a strong signal to the City. He wanted to raise interest rates to defend the pound.

But even worse was to come. On April 25, the Central Statistical Office published its preliminary estimate of the Gross Domestic Product for the first quarter. Instead of the widely expected slowdown, the CSO said the economy had continued to move ahead at a steady quarterly pace of 0.8 per cent. This announcement seemed to contradict all the weak monthly production and sales figures, as well as the walls of anguish from the construction and motor industries and the high streets. Government statisticians pointed out that industrial production,

which was "broadly flat", accounted for only 28 per cent of GDP. Meanwhile, the much larger service part of the economy had actually accelerated to 1 per cent, from an average quarterly growth rate of 0.8 per cent last year.

The alleged acceleration in services, seems to contradict most anecdotal evidence. It also seems an implausible pattern of recovery, given the forces acting on the economy, in the shape of rising taxes and interest rates and a weak pound. The preliminary GDP figures give no detailed breakdowns and are notoriously prone to revision.

The main question which the Chancellor and the Governor should tomorrow be discussing is whether the acceleration of non-manufacturing growth suggested by the CSO is plausible — and whether more harm could be done by raising interest rates now or by waiting until detailed information is available next month. To any rational observer the answer must surely be obvious. If the economy really does turn out to be growing at a dangerously inflationary pace, interest rates could be raised in June without significantly changing the long-term prospects for inflation.

If, on the other hand, interest rates are raised this week and the apparent acceleration of the service sector turns out to be some kind of temporary aberration or statistical illusion, cutting them back next month would be so embarrassing as to be out of the question.

If the Chancellor takes this choice, the City's expectations will be met, but the economy will run the danger of a serious slowdown. If the Chancellor takes the opposite course and waits until next month, the City will be shocked, but the Government would preserve some vital freedom of action. Unfortunately, it is all too easy to predict tomorrow's decision.

Seven months that ended Warburg's independence

Patricia Tehan on the fall of the bank that Sir Siegmund built

Seven short months is all it has taken for the end of independence at the house of Warburg.

Last October, when the bank issued its first shock profits warning, was the first time either SG Warburg's supremacy in the City or its global ambitions had been in doubt.

The autumn profits problems were not unique to Warburg. All firms with significant trading activities had been hit by the turmoil in the world's equity and bond markets last year. If anything, it was surprising that anyone had expected things to be different in Warburg. In November, it reported a first-half loss on its trading activities, and barely scraped in with a profit from its investment banking businesses. Group profits, at £62.5 million, were less than half those in the same period of the previous year.

In spite of its difficulties then, when Warburg announced its plans to merge with Morgan Stanley, in December, it was apparently doing so from a position of strength, in a seller's market.

By the time of yesterday's bombshell — its third profits warning in seven months — Warburg had lurched from one crisis to another and arrived in a buyer's market in time for Swiss Bank Corporation to snap up the investment banking businesses it wants at a reasonable price.

Warburg did a great job in December of convincing analysts and media commentators of the unique benefits of a merger with Morgan Stanley. It would, said Warburg, enable it to leapfrog the competition and accelerate the ambitious of both banks by at least five years.

A week later, when the talks ended acrimoniously after objections by its 75 per cent owned Mercury Asset Management, Warburg said that it was not open to offers and that this had been a one-off opportunity. Lord Cairns, then chief executive, went so far as to say that the bank did not "see any other combination among people in our field that offers anything like this".

The monthly drip feed of bad news continued in January when the bank pulled out of eurobonds, a market created by its founder, with the loss of 180 jobs. The scale of the crisis

became clear the following month when Warburg lost two of its most senior and respected corporate financiers to Morgan Grenfell, the London-based investment bank owned by Deutsche Bank.

Lord Cairns accepted responsibility and resigned a week after the departures. Sir David Scholey cancelled his retirement, became executive chairman and took over as head of a five-strong management committee, with the aim of revising the Warburg strategy to present a viable policy for the future. He said then that Warburg would continue as an independent company.

Rival businesses have since reported being inundated with CVs from Warburg staff.

A further four senior executives resigned from Warburg to go to Morgan Grenfell only this week. The bank has cut back its derivatives operations and pulled out of US domestic equities.

Warburg's management has looked increasingly unable to manage. In February, the bank appointed John Holmes, former head of sales at Credit Lyonnais, as its new chief executive. Two months later, it told staff that he will not be joining after "differences of view emerged regarding the future development of the bank's equity business". Warburg has bought out its contract at a figure said to be "under six figures".

Staff bonuses, due in April, have now been postponed until publication of the results at the end of this month.

Although the collapse of Barings gave Warburg some welcome relief from the media spotlight, it undoubtedly contributed to the company's decision to consider what Swiss Bank Corporation has to offer — an end to uncertainty about its future, a strong balance sheet, and limited overlap of businesses.

Sir David is eating his words. The "adopted son" of Warburg's founder, the late Sir Siegmund Warburg, is now faced with the unenviable task of convincing a disillusioned workforce and a doubtful client base of the merits of the "unique" opportunity of joining forces with SBC and giving MAM its independence.



Warburg HQ: departures mirror Rush Hour sculpture

Fear drives bank staff to the brink

As Barclays staff vote to strike, Robert Miller looks at the background to unrest in the banking business

TSB has shed 8,000 jobs since 1990 and has said that it will close another 200 branches within a year at a cost of at least 1,000 jobs.

Commenting on the possibility of a strike at Barclays, Noel Howell, of Bifu, which represents 130,000 staff in the financial services sector, said last night: "We will advise our members not to undermine any action by Unifi, the Barclays' staff union and not

to cross picket lines."

Dai Davies, assistant general secretary of the independent NatWest Staff Association, says there is "a fear factor" stalking staff that is felt right across the financial services sector. At present there is no concerted action by all unions involved and therefore individual strike calls are likely to impact on the senior management of banks and life and pension companies less than

they might otherwise. Mr Davies says that, after last week's meeting of the Financial Services Staff Federation, there is now a move to bring a more unified approach to staff and industry issues.

Mr Davies adds that what hurts bank staff most "is the general feeling of a lack of respect for them by senior executives manifested in the bonus payments to top management this year. Bank staff

are also being placed in an increasingly stressful environment as people leaving do not get replaced. Staff levels are being reduced on the basis of new technology which in fact has not yet been put in place".

Increasing staff stress levels will be the subject of a major debate at Bifu's annual conference this month, as will the general move by banks to impose performance-related pay awards on their staff rather than introducing them through negotiation. Mr Howell of Bifu says: "The sum of new money that goes into making up performance-related pay awards, called the pot, is actually lower in all the banks than the sum of the old two-tier pay system. Within the new salary increases there are a number of people who get no pay rise at all and a growing number who receive less than the annual rate of inflation."

It appears that the senior management in banks are no better at communicating with their staff than they are with their customers. Analysts of the banking industry say many of the job losses and branch closures were considered inevitable. But that message has not been accepted by staff.



Staff have sent Barclays chiefs Andrew Buxton and Martin Taylor a cri de coeur

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To residents of other countries with which The Netherlands have concluded no agreements, under deduction of 15 per cent Netherlands Withholding Tax.

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Certificate Holders resident outside the United Kingdom will receive payment less United Kingdom Income Tax at the rate of 20 per cent on the net amount unless the coupons are accompanied by a United Kingdom Affidavit of non-residence. The aforementioned rates of tax apply only in respect of coupon presented for payment up to and including 10th November 1995. Thereafter Netherlands Withholding Tax will be deducted at the rate of 25 per cent and the United Kingdom Income Tax, where applicable, at the rate of 20 per cent from the net Sterling amount.

For the period of 10th May 1995 to 10th November 1995 the dividend will be paid in Sterling at the rate of exchange ruling on the day of presentation of the coupons. Coupons presented thereafter will be paid in Sterling at the rate of exchange ruling on the 10th November 1995.

To obtain payment, coupon no. 45 must be presented at the office of Hill Samuel Bank Limited, 10 Fleet Place, London EC4M 3TF, ("the Paying Agent"). Coupons must be listed in numerical order on special forms obtainable from the Paying Agent and must be left five clear days for examination.

Coupons are available on request to the Paying Agent at the above address of the present Conditions relating to the Participation Certificates which Conditions replace those printed on the back of the existing Participation Certificates.

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India forecast to leave UK economy standing



Heseltine warned business

By COLIN NARBROUGH
WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN will trail well behind the world's most competitive economies in the early part of the next century, according to a survey of leading business executives conducted for the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Geneva.

The WEF annual survey on world competitiveness, which is due out in September, expects Britain to be rated in 27th position by the year 2030, behind the giant developing countries of India and China, which both figure in the top ten.

The low ranking for Britain in the

survey, which shows America in pole position, followed by Japan, China and Germany, contrasts with government claims about the huge progress that the economy has made in terms of international competitiveness since the Conservatives came to power in 1979.

America easily came top, with well over half of the executives polled for the survey putting it in lead position. The rankings are based on the views of 1,500 business executives and are compiled for the WEF by the Institute for Management Development in Lausanne.

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, who is due to issue his annual White Paper on competitive-

ness on May 22, last week told an Institute of Directors conference that "British businesses are winning in the global market".

However, he warned businessmen that the improved competitiveness gave no cause for complacency, because Britain's principal competitors had sought to forge ahead, as Britain sought to catch up. "No matter how much we have changed over the past 15 years, the pace of change is unrelenting, the competition intensifying," he said.

The WEF survey, which, for the first time, canvassed opinions on competitive positions in 2030, confirms the shift to Asia of the world's

economic centre of gravity. Singapore, South Korea, India, Taiwan and Malaysia all figure in the top ten. Switzerland, at 10th, is the only European economy, apart from Germany, in the top ten.

Last year the WEF put America, Singapore and Japan as world leaders in competitiveness in 2010. Rankings are based on a broad range of factors, from economic performance to management skills and the quality of the workforce.

The executives responding to the survey form part of a global network of business leaders who attend the annual WEF meetings at Davos, the Swiss alpine resort.

Peabody may merge to create £1bn group

By ROBERT MILLER

TWO leading charitable housing associations yesterday announced plans to join force and create a new entity with combined assets of more than £1 billion.

If the merger goes ahead, the Peabody Trust, which this year celebrates its bi-centenary, and Network Housing Association, would become the Peabody Network providing homes for 25,000 households and would also be the second or third largest housing association in the United Kingdom.

The Peabody, which is at present the seventh largest housing association, is noted for its care in the Community initiatives and the pioneering Rough Sleepers programme.

George Barlow, chief executive of Peabody, said the plan to merge with Network, which operates around London and Hertfordshire, was set against "an era of a serious falling off of state aid".

The Network has built a reputation for providing special needs schemes through about 50 projects as well as managing 27 sheltered housing schemes.

Over the past few years, the Government has cut back the official Housing Association Grant (HAG), insisting that

associations raise more money through the private sector such as building societies and merchant banks.

In 1993 the Government-funded Housing Corporation distributed £1.8 billion in grants to about 2,300 associations. This sum fell to £1.54 billion in the last financial year which ended on April 1.

In the fiscal year just started, the grant will be worth about £1.2 billion and the Government plans further cuts in the grant to a point where it contributes 55 per cent of the financing for each new housing association unit, compared with 62 per cent last year, with the remainder coming from the City.

The housing associations are currently the largest providers of social housing needs outside the Government. They believe that at a near 50/50 split of funding between the state and private sector, the associations become a much less attractive investment proposition for the private sector.

Fred Goymour, associate director of NatWest Markets housing finance division, which has raised more than half of the £6 billion worth of private finance for housing associations, said: "The vast majority of the larger associations, as opposed to the more specialised local ones, are developing housing in areas where the state grants per association unit are already well below the below the 50 per cent level."

He added that this raised the serious concern that the initial rents which had to be charged to tenants would inevitably have to be higher than was generally desirable in order to pay the interest on the money raised from the private sector.

Mr Barlow said: "Against the falling level of state aid we want to extend the traditional housing association role to combat a wide variety of poverty issues and play a major role in urban and economic regeneration at the grass roots level."



Peabody is noted for care in the community schemes



Gus Carter ready for the off in the City

By JON ASHWORTH

GUS CARTER, the Sunderland-based chain of bookmakers, is coming to the market via a placing by Wise Speke that values the company at £127 million. The shares have been priced at 80p. The flotation will raise £3 million after expenses to fund shop refurbishment and expansion. Dealings will begin next Wednesday.

Members of the Trehwitt family who run Gus Carter are selling shares worth £1.88 million for the benefit of various family trusts. John Trehwitt, 41, managing director, and his brother Nick, 38, development director, will continue to hold stakes of 24.5 per cent each in the company. They will each receive £75,000 in annual salary and pension entitlements on service contracts fixed for the first three years.

Gordon Hodgson, chief executive of Cowie Group, was appointed non-executive chairman of Gus Carter last month. The Trehwitts expect to invest £2.5 million over the next two years in refurbishing the company's 72-shop strong betting chain, and buying other betting offices. A further £1.3 million will be spent on new computer systems.

Gus Carter aims to benefit from the continuing deregulation of the betting industry, that has opened the gates for evening and Sunday betting, and allowed product promotions in betting office windows. Bookmakers can now accept football pool coupons under the National Lottery Act 1993.

The flotation has attracted strong local interest. Private clients of Wise Speke, based in Newcastle, will buy 1.5 million shares. The balance is being placed with institutions. Fees payable to Wise Speke and other North East advisers amount to £475,000.

Gus Carter made a pre-tax profit of £1.09 million (£574,000) in the year to December 31 on turnover of £43.6 million (£40.8 million).

Country Casuals goes into red

By SARAH BAGNALL

COUNTRY CASUALS, the women's fashion retailer, yesterday revealed the extent of the damage wreaked by new ventures with the announcement of a £1 million loss in the 53 weeks to January 28. The loss represented a steep decline from a pre-tax profit of £2.6 million in the previous 52-week period.

The group was pushed into the red by larger than expected start-up costs and trading losses of £2.7 million in Elvi.

The "size 14 and up" chain. Profits were hit by £400,000 of provisions for the closure of some Elvi stores and a loss of £900,000 on selling Koto Stores.

Country Casuals has 57 Elvi stores, having opened 22 stores last year. The number is not expected to rise this year.

Tom Adams, chairman, said that Elvi would continue to be loss-making this year. He said: "It is a critical year for Elvi. We have got to see the

point when we will break through into profits. If that disappears too far into the future, we will have to decide if we are doing the right thing and are not throwing good money after bad."

The core Country Casuals business reported record profits of £3.3 million, up from £3 million last year.

The final dividend is held at 2.8p, making an unchanged total for the year of 4.3p. The shares slipped 1p, to 108p.

Deutsche buys US finance house

By OLIVER AUGUST

DEUTSCHE BANK has bought ITT Commercial Finance, one of the biggest independent asset-based financing companies in the United States, for \$700 million.

The company, to be renamed Deutsche Financial Services Corporation, will operate in 39 cities in America and Canada, with an asset volume of more than \$5 billion.

John Rolfs, president of Deutsche Bank North America, said the purchase would add stable and attractive returns to the bank's earnings stream.

ITT Commercial Finance's earnings have seen annual increases of between 10 and 15 per cent for the past 15 years. Mr Rolfs said he expected the growth in earnings to continue, though not necessarily at such a high rate.

Melvin Brown, the president of ITT Commercial Finance, said his company had made record profits in 1994, and 1995 was looking even better. First-quarter earnings were up 40 per cent on the same period last year.

Mr Rolfs also announced that 200 jobs will be lost at Deutsche Credit, Deutsche Bank's own American asset-based financing company, as a result of the acquisition. The two companies will be merged and together will have between 1,750 and 1,800 employees.

Deutsche Bank hopes to gain access to Commercial Finance's 16,000 corporate customers and to offer them other financial products as well.

Siegfried Guterman, a spokesman for Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt, said: "We are very impressed with the good relationship Commercial Finance had with its corporate customers. We are looking forward to combining this with our existing American business."

Deutsche Bank emphasised that the acquisition will also provide the old ITT team with a new network to expand into Europe. The core business will be in stock financing for wholesalers. The deal was approved by regulators in America and Canada after a four-month review period.

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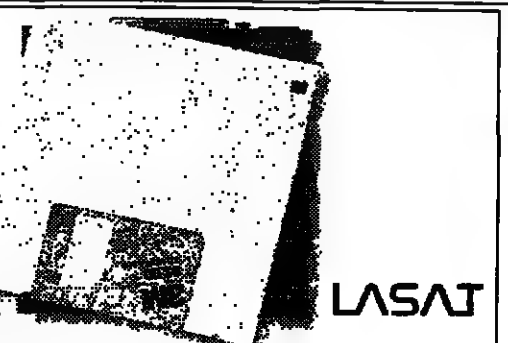
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Shares extend recent gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	Low	Company	Price	Change	1995	Low	Company	Price	Change
BANKS									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
DISTRIBUTORS									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
BREWERIES									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
ENGINEERING VEHICLES									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
FOOD MANUFACTURERS									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
ELECTRICITY									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
ELECTRONIC & ELECT									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
BUILDING MATERIALS									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
BUSINESS SERVICES									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
CHEMICALS									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
ENGINEERING									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
INSURANCE									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
HOUSEHOLD GOODS									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
INVESTMENT TRUSTS									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
SHORTS (under 5 years)									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
LONGS (over 15 years)									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation of 3%)									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
UNDATED									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
RETAILERS, FOOD									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
RETAILERS, GENERAL									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
WATER									
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10
100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10	100	100	Bank of America	100	0.10

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ACCOUNTANCY

SAS targets fraudsters

By RICHARD FLECK

Finding and proving fraud is difficult. So it is not surprising people look to auditors for assurance that all is as it should be. Corporate collapses and scandals in the 1980s brought to the fore expectations that auditors should find any instance of fraud in the entity on whose financial statements they report, regardless of its financial impact or the extent to which those perpetrating it sought to conceal it.

In this difficult area, the Auditing Practices Board has published two new Statements of Auditing Standards *Fraud and Error* (SAS 110) and *Consideration of Law and Regulations* (SAS 120). Auditors are required to comply with these standards for audits of financial periods ending on or after June 30, 1995.

Neither SAS promises that auditors will find all cases of fraud or all breaches of law and regulations. The job Parliament has given auditors is primarily to report on companies' financial statements — to state whether these give a true and fair view. Only in the regulated financial sector, and in the areas of public service provisions, are auditors commissioned specifically to report on the way an entity is run.

The APB consulted extensively in the course of preparing the two SASs to determine the nature of expectations, the way in which they can be met and the way in which auditors' performance can be improved. Some of the main criticisms levelled at auditors in the past, and an indication of the way the SASs will meet them are:

□ **Auditors have not focused sufficiently clearly on identifying possible risk factors**

Both SASs specifically require auditors to assess risk of fraud, or non-compliance with law and regulations, the financial effect of which is material to the financial statements, and to plan sufficient work to draw conclusions about whether fraud or non-compliance has occurred. This makes overt an implicit element of auditing and removes any possible basis for an auditor to believe attempting to find fraud is not his job.

□ **Suspicious circumstances were not properly investigated**

Both SASs, as well as requiring auditors to plan work aimed at detecting material fraud or non-compliance, require that any possible fraud or non-compliance be investigated, regardless of its size.

□ **Auditors do not cast their net wide enough**



Richard Fleck says the balance of SAS 110 and 120 is right

Both the SASs recognise the difficulties. Fraud usually involves steps to conceal it, and so is always harder to find than error — if it involves collusion of directors and others, auditors can face almost insuperable difficulties. Nevertheless, auditors must

take all reasonable steps open to them to detect material fraud and breaches of laws and regulations. Consideration of laws and regulations present an additional problem for auditors. Identifying breaches of the many laws and regulations that may apply to

es during conduct of all work on the audit. Auditors may not be lawyers, but they will need to know enough about the entity's business and related legal and regulatory requirements to spot problems.

□ **Auditors were too quick to accept directors' explanations**

As auditors build up experience of dealing with a particular board of directors, they will form a view on the board's reliability and on the quality of its judgment. There is no reason to suggest this should not happen. However, auditors must approach their work with an attitude of "professional scepticism" and not be lulled into a position of accepting misleading explanations. The main safeguard against this happening is that auditors are required to obtain clear evidence of the position. The SASs require this and a reassessment, where suspicions are raised, of all aspects of the audit — particularly of the truthfulness of information obtained from management.

□ **When auditors find something, they tell no one**

Both SASs include clear requirements for reporting fraud and breaches of law and regulations to those responsible for management (unless the auditors believe them to be involved) and to shareholders. Where judged necessary, in the public interest, they require auditors to report a matter to an appropriate authority to take action, if the company itself does not do so. Dealing with fraud, the APB has suggested several steps in addition to the issue of SAS 110 in *The Audit Agenda*, its second paper on the future development of auditing. In *The Audit Agenda*, the APB's vice-chairman suggests that audit is about upholding confidence in the integrity of financial reporting and business conduct of entities, but not about stifling their objectives. In SAS 110 and 120, I think we have the balance right.

Richard Fleck is a partner in Herbert Smith and chairman of the APB task force on SAS 110 and 120.

The facts behind a change of auditors

ONE of the problems that the accountancy profession has always had with the concept of predatory pricing, or low-balling as it is more popularly known, is trying to get at evidence. And one of the reasons for this is that nobody talks about what actually happens in the process of a company changing, or seeking to change, its auditors.

But now new research by authors who have interviewed and quoted the finance directors involved provides a vivid picture of what happens. Their views of auditors and their reasons for change provide startling illumination of the motives, chance events, accidents and turns of fate that attend what should be the most mundane of occurrences — a change of auditor.

The Winner's Curse and the Audit Tender Process was produced by Vivien Beattie, of the University of Stirling, and Stella Fearnley, of the University of Portsmouth. Unveiled at the recent British Accounting Association annual conference at Bristol Business School, it involved interviews with the finance directors of 12 listed companies that had changed auditors or been through a tendering process. The conclusions are at odds with the popular view.

"The evidence suggests," say Beattie and Fearnley, "that, contrary to popular belief, fee levels do not dominate the decision to change auditors, rather changes within the client company, audit staffing and auditor's professionalism and competency issues dominate." On the other hand, there was great suspicion of auditors offering a cheap audit off the back of which other services would be offered. In fact, one audit firm lost the audit simply because they started doing just that. So the reasons behind the changes are down not so much to management or business reasons, but instead to simple human successes and failures.

One of the most heart-rending tales is of a company with a third-tier audit firm. The usual partner was ill and out of action for some time and the firm did what it thought was best. The managing partner took over the audit assignment and lost them the audit. As the finance director said, "We found when we were sitting around at meetings, we'd all be quite young, our solicitors were all quite young and the merchant bankers were quite young and you had these two old men from

the auditors and we thought, 'This is getting silly'."

There is a graphic example of the sort of mess this can get both firm and client into. As the finance director put it, the auditors had "of their own saying, cut their fee rate by 20 per cent to get the job and they were expecting to be able to cover that from other types of fees throughout ... If we had a requirement for an insurance certificate signing ... we would get the signature back with a bill for £500."

With a further audit loss related to fees was similar. The audit was cheap, but the client kept getting hit by extras. In the words of the finance director: "We had a number of specialist points which we wish to raise ... and we would be very quickly involved in a fairly hefty fee from the specialist department ... the contracts which are now drawn up by the large audit practices are so tightly drawn that anything which falls outside it would fall outside the terms of the contract and one would be in an acrimonious position from day one when talking about fees."

The other area to prove contentious was that of internal controls. Their reaction to the Cadbury Code, which requires them to report on internal controls, though not on their effectiveness, exemplifies this. Internal controls are the directors' responsibilities, so it is easy to cut the cost of the overall audit by not bothering too much about internal controls. On the other hand, people rather expect external auditors to take an interest in internal audit.

Hence one company which could not get its message across to a Big Six firm that, in the words of the finance director, "did not believe that they ought to do an audit of internal controls ... they failed to understand that it wasn't necessarily Cadbury or the Institute that was driving us". In the end, the internal controls question comes back to fee pressure. Audit methodology now focuses on high-risk areas, say the authors, and "although this may be a more efficient and cost-effective way of reaching an opinion, reviews of internal controls have been much reduced".

The audit firms should watch out. And, on the basis of the value of the interviews in this research, they should also listen to what finance directors really think about them and their work.



ROBERT BRUCE

Tweedie keeps rolling along

KPMG partners held a dinner recently to honour their most talked-about alumnus, Sir David Tweedie, of the Accounting Standards Board. Tweedie gave them a hard time at their recent debate on accounting standards when he asked "what is the difference between an auditor and an airport luggage trolley?" The answer being that it was the trolley that had a mind of its own. But KPMG partners have retained their sense of

ANY OTHER BUSINESS?

humour. They presented him with a silver model of a luggage trolley.

Ruled out?

MEANWHILE, KPMG is doing its bit for simplifying the rules. In the latest *Financial Reporting Update*, it provides summaries of accounting standards "boiled down to a sentence or two". But pedantic accountants have noted that KPMG's potted versions miss

out FRS 2, FRS 6 and FRS 7. Presumably, they were still considered too hard.

Tender moment

FURTHER revelations from the murky world of audit tendering. In a recent lecture entitled "Is accounting becoming too interesting?" Professor Geoff Whittington, the Cambridge guru, revealed what happened when his college put its audit out to tender. "One firm went so

far as to say that its catering specialists could improve the running of the college kitchens," he said. "I was tempted to ask if they also provided painting and decorating or window cleaning services."

In print

BRIAN HARRIS, QC, who wrote recently in these pages, has sprung further into print. His *Law and Practice of Disciplinary and Regulatory Proceedings* is published by Barry Rose: 01243 783637.

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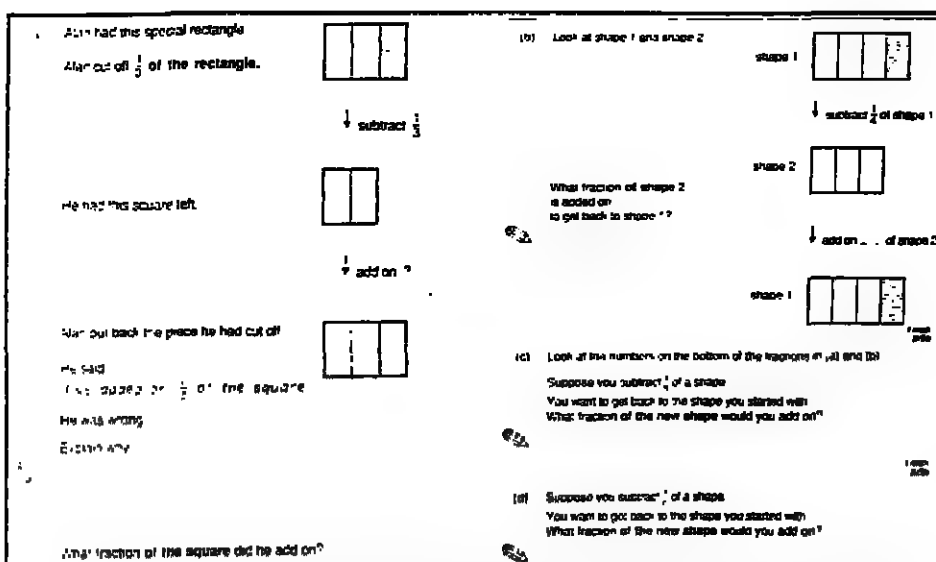
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TODAY: Mathematics for 14-year-olds — how to prepare, what to expect in the tests, and how to avoid mistakes

Number-crunching made easier



From last year's paper for 14-year-olds: levels 5-7, for average ability and above

There is no reason to fear next week's maths tests, says Julian Spicer, provided you are well prepared

Don't worry! Just do your best. No-one can ask you more of you than that. Comforting words from your grandmother after some exam in the now distant past. The trouble was, and is, that to go into the exam and do your best on the day is considerably different from making sure you are fully prepared and thus able to produce your best performance. Good preparation is the key to success in next week's mathematics tests.

For most of the pupils sitting down to Paper 1 next Tuesday morning, this will be their first taste of the formality of a public examination. This being so, it is clear that good preparation is more than "revising your maths". You will need three things: familiarity with the organisation and format of the tests, revision of the appropriate content and good exam technique.

Familiarity: It may seem



obvious, but especially for the examination debutants, rule number one is: make sure you know where and when the tests take place. Each test lasts one hour and each pupil will need to bring a pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and calculator.

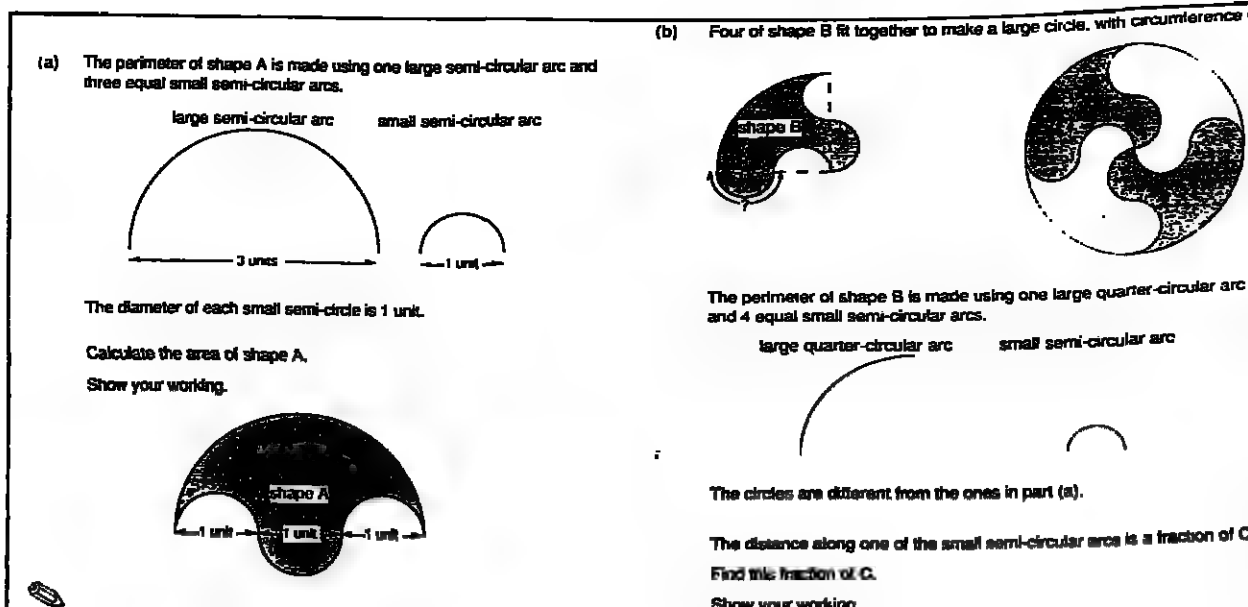
The tests begin with easier questions, increasing in difficulty as the paper progresses. All questions should be attempted, and all your working

and answers should be written on the test paper.

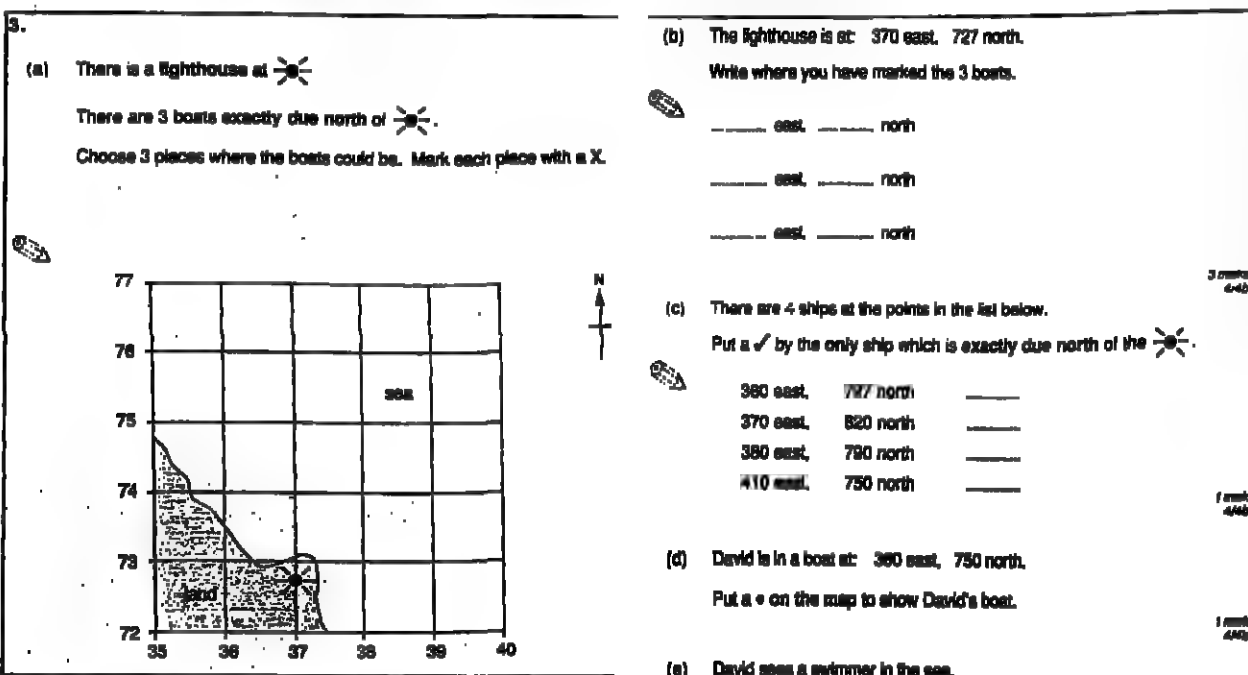
Fortunately, the tests will be much the same as last year's so both the sample questions on this page and test materials issued in October 1993 can be used to acquaint pupils with the style of questions.

Content: The topics on which you will be tested will be those you should have covered over the last three years. This is not as big a task as it may sound. Mathematics has a linear nature: topics tend to be revisited year after year. This should mean that only the most recent work on a given topic needs revising.

Any formulae specifically relevant to the question, but which pupils are not required to know as part of their study, will be provided in the papers. Pupils entered for Tiers 3-5 or 4-6 will be given the formulae for the area of a triangle, rectangle and parallelogram. Those entered at Tier 5-7 will



From last year's level 6-8 paper, for the brightest pupils — the most difficult of all the 14-year-old tests



A question from last year's paper for levels 4-6...

also be given the volume of a prism and Pythagoras' theorem. In the Tier 6-8 papers the formulae for tangent, sine and cosine are added.

Any pupil taking the extension paper could expect to be given the Sine and Cosine Rules and the Quadratic formulae also. The formulae for the circumference and area of the circle will not be provided.

Know your calculator. This is particularly important for higher tiers of entry — simply because the applications are greater. The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority recommends that for Tiers 5-7 and 6-8, pupils should have a scientific calculator.

Exam technique: You will be expected to show your working and reasoning where the questions require it, and particularly where a calculator is not permitted. Marks can be earned even when the final answer is wrong.

Make sure you understand the interpretation of certain key words, such as "estimate" as opposed to "evaluate" and the meaning of terms

such as "describe" (what you do to solve a problem) or "explain" (why it works).

Strive to save your time in the tests so that you can make an attempt at all questions; in its simplest form this means that after half an hour they should be about half way through.

Julian Spicer is head of mathematics at Lincoln Christ's Hospital School.

...for pupils from below average to average ability

THE THREE sample questions above come from last year's mathematics tests. They cover three of the four tiers of difficulty for which pupils may be entered without taking an extension paper. Answers will be printed in tomorrow's edition of Testplan.

Many a slip loses marks

PUPILS sitting mathematics tests on Tuesday and Wednesday can improve their marks by ensuring they do not repeat the often careless errors made by candidates last summer.

Government advisers have underlined the importance of pupils showing their working. Remember that candidates can earn some marks for a question even if they get the final answer wrong, provided they show their method and give reasons.

Examiners have drawn up a list of common errors that pupils made in questions at all levels of difficulty last year. By studying the pitfalls, pupils can avoid throwing away marks with the following kinds of errors:

- Putting the decimal point in the wrong place or forgetting it after multiplying or adding whole numbers and decimals. Some pupils put $5 \times 6 = 5.8 + 5.8 = 22.6$ or 21.16 , similarly, $32.4 \times 10 = 32.4$ or 3240 .
- Confusing the squaring and doubling of numbers. For example, pupils doubled numbers when attempting to square them, and were muddled about the difference between halving, doubling, squaring and square-rooting.
- Failing to use shorter methods in calculations and for solving problems. For example, some pupils actually multiplied by 1 on a calculator when asked to evaluate a volume expressed as length \times breadth \times 1 in a short and accurate way. Others subtracted the area of two semi-circles and then added back on the area of one of these, rather than just subtracting the area once.
- Estimating fractions and percentages badly. For example, some candidates made poor guesses when they were asked to look at a circle which had been divided up into portions ($1/2$, $1/3$ etc) and judge the size of each.
- Not recognising when to use appropriate formulae for areas, Pythagoras' theorem or trigonometry. For example, making no reference to area formulae for rectangles, parallelograms or triangles, confusing the area and circumference formulae for circles; failing to remember where Pythagoras' theorem needed to be applied or mistakenly trying to use trigonometry formulae instead.
- Failing to use calculators where appropriate.

BEN PRESTON

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO MATHS REVISION			
Tier Number	Algebra	Shape & Space	Data Handling
3-5	Using multiplication and division to solve problems with and without a calculator Calculating fractions and percentages of quantities	Using number patterns to solve problems Following rules to generate sequences Perimeter	Reading information from tables, bar charts and pictograms Simple probabilities expressed as fractions or percentages
4-6	Ratio Solving simple equations	Reflective and rotational symmetry Coordinates Drawing 3-D shapes on paper Area of a circle	Scatter graphs
5-7	Rounding to the nearest tenth, ten, hundred, etc Solving equations using trial and improvement	General rules for sequences Similar figures	Probability of exclusive event Probability of independent events
6-8	Numbers in standard form Expanding brackets Solving inequalities		

TOMORROW
Science for 14-year-olds
Next week: how to prepare for the first tests for 11-year-olds

Court of Appeal

Law Report May 4 1995

Chancery Division

No distress damages in car repair

Alexander v Rolls Royce Motor Cars Ltd

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Beldam and Lord Justice Peter Gibson
[Judgment April 12]

Breach of a contract to repair a motor car did not give rise to a liability for damages for distress and inconvenience or loss of enjoyment in the use of the car.

The Court of Appeal so held in the Queen's Bench Division when upholding the decision of Judge Byrre, QC, at the Mayor's and City of London County Court on November 27, 1992 that the

defendant, Rolls Royce Motor Cars Ltd, should pay him £10,499.28 damages for breach of a contract to repair his car. The plaintiff argued, inter alia, that the award should have included an amount for disappointment, loss of enjoyment or distress.

Mr Anthony Scriven, QC and Mr Richard Roberts for the plaintiff; Mr Michael McLaren for Rolls Royce.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that the general rule was that damages for distress, inconvenience or loss of enjoyment were not recovered for breach of an ordinary commercial contract but only when the contract was one for

the provision of pleasure, freedom from harassment or relaxation.

Mr Scriven had attempted to bring the plaintiff's contract for the repair of his car within that exceptional class of case by arguing that it was akin to a contract to provide a relaxing holiday or to provide freedom from worry and anxiety. The plaintiff had acquired the Rolls Royce car for his pleasure and to drive on social occasions so that he could enjoy the exceptional experience which ownership of such a prestigious car could bring.

His Lordship did not doubt that it had been the plaintiff's object to enjoy to the full the ownership of his Rolls Royce car. But it was not

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Suing in place of performance

Atlas Shipping Agency (UK) Ltd and another v Suisse Atlantique Société d'Armement Maritime SA and others

Before Mr Justice Rix
[Judgment April 6]

Where a buyer contracted with a seller to pay commission to the broker of their purchase arrangement, the broker's right to sue them as trustees of the commission money amounted to "matters relating to a contract" for the purposes of article 5(1) of the Lugano Convention so that, exceptionally, the brokers could sue in the jurisdiction of the place of performance of the obligation to pay commission rather than in the jurisdiction of the defendants' place of domicile.

Mr Justice Rix so held in the Queen's Bench Division when upholding the decision of Judge Byrre, QC, at the Mayor's and City of London County Court on November 27, 1992 that the

contract, in the courts for the place of performance of the obligation in question.

Mr Simon Croall for the plaintiff brokers; Mr Guy Morris for the defendant buyers; the sellers did not appear and were not represented.

MR JUSTICE RIX said that Atlas had earned commission by arranging the sale of two vessels by Labak and Ulagan to Suisse Atlantique. The contract of sale laid the onus of paying the commission on Suisse Atlantique and Atlas had sought the commission money on the basis that it was held by the parties to the sale as trustees.

His Lordship bore in mind that the special jurisdiction under article 5 was a derogation from the underlying philosophy that jurisdiction was vested in the country where the defendant was domiciled and must therefore be interpreted restrictively. Even so the present claim was within the spirit and letter of article 5(1).

Suisse Atlantique were being sued in the proceedings "in matters relating to a contract". The obligation in question was the alleged implied promise given by the buyers that, if they took the appropriate deduction from the purchase price, they would pay over that deduction in the form of commissions to the brokers.

It was common ground that the place of performance of the obligation was England and Suisse Atlantique's challenge to the jurisdiction of the English courts failed.

Solicitors: Duval Vassiliades; Jackson Parson.

Duty to provide accommodation

Regina v Wandsworth London Borough Council, Ex parte Beckwith

Before Mr Justice Popplewell
[Judgment April 11]

A local authority had a duty to provide accommodation for each of the six classes of person referred to in section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948, as amended by the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990, and had not discharged its duty by providing for only one or some of the classes so defined.

Mr Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division when giving judgment for Mr William Beckwith, a retired person who lived at George Porter House, Battersea. Mr Beckwith applied for judicial review of the decision of Wandsworth London Borough Council on December 7, 1994 to close George Porter House and to sell its remaining residential care homes for elderly people to a private sector, and to cease to be a provider of residential care for elderly people.

Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr Alan Maclean for Mr Beckwith; Mr Alan Wilkie, QC and Mr Clive Sheldon for Wandsworth.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that the council had argued that there was nothing in the relevant statutory provisions, the 1948 Act as amended by the 1990 Act, which required it to keep one managed premises for each of the classes of person cited in section 21 of the 1948 Act and that it was open to it to dispose of all its residential

care homes provided it still kept places for people with learning disabilities or people with mental health problems.

Mr Beckwith contended that the council was bound to retain at least one of its homes designed for residential care. That issue depended on the construction of sections 21 and 26 of the 1948 Act, as amended by the 1990 Act.

His Lordship was persuaded that the provisions of section 21(1) did envisage different classes of person to whom the duty was owed and for whom different provisions needed to be made. That construction fitted in with the idea of a mixed economy of care rather than the construction contended for by the council.

It was a further issue whether the council had misinterpreted Department of Health statistics regarding the number of surplus beds during the 1988 to 1994 period.

Having been wrongly advised that there was an oversupply of residential care for elderly people in the borough, the council concluded that it was entitled to dispose of all its four residential care homes accordingly; the question as to what it should do if it was not in law allowed to dispose of all its residential homes was never considered by it.

His Lordship therefore quashed the whole of the council's decision and submitted the matter to it for reconsideration.

Solicitors: Miss Gabrielle O'Connor, Wandsworth; Mr Martin Walker, Wandsworth.

His Lordship said that the plaintiff had placed and entered into a partnership on September 29, 1989 to carry on the business of a newspaper. They acquired leasehold premises together with the goodwill of the business already being carried on there for £87,514.47.

The defendant had provided far more capital than the plaintiff and as the defendant had provided the goodwill of the business already being carried on there for £87,514.47.

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TODAY

At the Design Museum, the architectural genius of Frank Lloyd Wright is celebrated



TONIGHT

A danced homage to Purcell in his tercentenary year: Matthew Hawkins comes to the Hackney Empire

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 1

A Jewish violinist ruminates on the Holocaust in Bernard Kops's *Call in the Night* in Leeds

THEATRE 2

Kathryn Hunter stars in a compelling staging of Tennessee Williams's *The Rose Tattoo*

LONDON

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT IN CHICAGO The influence of the early years of America's most revered architect goes on show today. Wright's work from 1887 to 1915 is shown in his celebrated Prairie Style domestic architecture to one of the most original office buildings ever conceived, the Larkin Company Administration Building in New York. Over 250 exhibits, many rarely seen in public, bring together his furniture, art, glass, ceramics, architectural drawings, lighting, specially-commissioned models, large-scale photographs and video presentations. Design Museum, Butler's Wharf, Shed Thames, SE1 0JX. 0171-403 6333. Mon-Fri, 11.30am-5pm; Sat-Sun, 10am-5pm. Until Sept 3.

MATTHEW HAWKINS One of Britain's most imaginative and individual choreographers offers a free-dance treat in his new homage to Purcell. Expect invention, understanding and a hint of reverence. Hackney Empire, Mare Street, E8 0JH. 0181-955 2424. Tonight-Sat, 8pm.

PASSION KILLERS The award-winning Merleburn Opera presents what promises to be a highly theatrical evening of music drama with a triple bill of one-act operas by Stephen Oliver.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

BAD TIMES The Garden and Exposition of a Picture were written separately but all belong to a Hitchcock-esque world of chic, elegant interiors concealing a great many secret desires. Young Vic, The Ctr, SE1 0JX. 0171-623 6363. Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 3.30pm. £5.

ELSEWHERE
MANCHESTER Hard-hitting scenes and brutal language in *Generations of the Dead* in the Abyss of Coney Island, by Michael Henry Brown, author of *The Day the Brown Died*. Bertrami Two directs the story of a golden boy turned musician. Contact: Oxford Road (0161-274 4000). Preview tonight, opens Fri, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, until May 27. £5.

ABERDEEN Three Steps to Heaven, David Cosgrove's play with 1950s musical continues as national tour. Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper board.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **HOUSE FULL**, reviews only
■ **SEATS**, availability and prices

■ **THE KILLING OF SISTER** GEORGE. Minam Margulies plays the lonely soap heroine in Frank Marlowe's excellent comedy with a bit. Sarah Evans and Josephine Tewson play her misanthropic companion and boss. Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 0JX. 0171-638 6111. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; Sun, 3pm and Sat, 5.30pm.

■ **THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS** John Dowling's all-time production of O'Casey, acclaimed on tour and in London for its wit. Gielgud, Chichester Road, WC2 0JX. 0171-494 5510. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Sun, 3pm and Sat, 2.30pm.

■ **RETRAIT** Tim Pigott-Smith plays a man retired to his Welsh cottage and his new neighbor, William Hamilton is a charming visitor. Sam Walters directs. Playwright James Saunders play.

■ **JIFFREY** Christopher Villiers plays a New Yorker turned in to his abductees; eight other actors play 42 of his friends and colleagues. The Lucanthea Theatre, 100 Rotherhithe Lane, Greenwich, SE18 6PQ. 0181-858 7755. Preview tonight, 7.45pm; opens May 6.

■ **THE SILVER TASSIE** Simon O'Casey's force and haunting anti-war drama, not seen in London since 1969. What happens to a Dublin soccer hero after he volunteers in 1914. Lynne Parker directs a large cast. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 0JX. 0171-259 4404. Preview tonight, 8pm; opens May 10. £5.

■ **SKYLIGHT** Opening night for Michael Gambon and La Warrina as an estranged couple, with the man's son pleading for their reconciliation. Richard Eyre directs David Hare's tenth play for the National. National, (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 0JX. 0171-228 2232. Tonight, 7pm; Fri-Wed, 7.30pm; Sat, 2.30. £5.

■ **VICTOR AND THE LADIES** Rudolph Walker plays a widower with 18 daughters and many other women keen to be with him. Pauline Randall directs a comedy by Jeremy Mules, based on the PC battles of feminist good news. Theatre, Kilburn High Road, NW6 0JX. 0171-259 1000. Preview tonight, 8pm; opens May 6. £5.

■ **RETRAIT** Tim Pigott-Smith plays a man retired to his Welsh cottage and his new neighbor, William Hamilton is a charming visitor. Sam Walters directs. Playwright James Saunders play.

■ **JURIST** (18): Harvard law professor Sean Connery wrestles with a murder case in Florida. Lucanthea Theatre, 100 Rotherhithe Lane, Greenwich, SE18 6PQ. 0181-858 7755. Preview tonight, 7.45pm; opens May 6.

■ **NOBODY'S FOOT** (18): Endearing slice of small-town Americana, with Paul Newman, Melvyn Frank, and Jessica Tandy. West End, 0171-494 5510. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Sun, 3pm and Sat, 2.30pm.

■ **OUTBREAK** (18): Tautou virus thriller that turns up with David Hoffman and Robin Williams. Director, Wolfgang Peterson. Lucanthea Theatre, 100 Rotherhithe Lane, Greenwich, SE18 6PQ. 0181-858 7755. Preview tonight, 7.45pm; opens May 6.

■ **QUICK SHOW** (12): Director Robert Redford reunites a TV world of the late 1950s. Fine performances (John Turturro, Ralph Fiennes, Paul Scofield), but not enough bite, or relevance. MGM Theatres (0171-434 0031).

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LONDON GALLERIES

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PROMS 1

John Drummond bows out as Proms director with a bumper centenary season of premieres

PROMS 2

... including, on the First Night, Andrew Davis conducting Mahler's gigantic Eighth Symphony

THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC

Meanwhile, Sir Georg Solti brings together two orchestras for one concert in the Festival Hall

DANCE

Paying its historical dues: the Monte Carlo Ballet performs Fokine and Balanchine

Past masters of dazzling display

YOU might consider that a ballet company founded ten years ago, in a bijou principal city with a bijou opera house, has the ring of a young upstart with ambitious pretensions. But you would be wrong. The Monte Carlo Ballet's ancestry goes back to the beginning of this century and pre-dates our own national ballet. Diaghilev's Ballets Russes made Monte Carlo their home, and so of subsequent companies, incorporating Monte Carlo in their name.

Soti was a neat historical reminder for the Monte Carlo Ballet to open its first London season with a programme including two Diaghilev protégés — Fokine and Balanchine. Fokine's *Scheherazade*, while in 1910 pitched its Paris audience into a delicious tremble, nowadays seems quaint and occasionally giggly rather than shockingly erotic.

At the designs, recreating Bal's cushioned and broad-based Fabian harem, still fill the eye with a glorious symphony of jewel colours. The Golden Slave's bouffant pantaloons stain gold.

Imphotographs of him in the role, Nijinsky conveys an exotic animality, a sensual abrasion; no wonder he was the choice morsel for the Sultan Zobeide's orgiastic desire. That quality eluded Francesco Nappo's tender outlines in Tuesday, but he was tremendous in the daring jump with which he dodges the venging blade of the scimitar, before succumbing, his body arching head-first like a bow, legs and feet

Monte Carlo Ballet Sadler's Wells

pointing upwards with perfect, balletic artificiality. Paola Cantalupo's narrow silhouette and quivering profile recalled the original Zobeide, the spectacular Ida Rubenstein.

The dancers are young, attractive and have great technical polish. Balanchine's *Who Cares?* held no fears for them. Jean-Charles Gil, slim, handsome and highly rated by the French, was too short for his first partner, Bernice Coppiters, who cut the air with incredibly long, stately limbs. But it's not every day you see a man with such lightness, breadth and piercing clarity.

The harsh brass section of the London Gala Orchestra, under David Garforth's baton, did battle with the other instruments in both *Who Cares?* (Gershwin) and *Scheherazade* (Rimsky-Korsakov). Hervé Billaut, the pianist for *Who Cares?*, played the Scriabin pieces that accompanied *Dov'è la Luna*, a new work by the company's director and prolific choreographer, Jean-Christophe Maillot. The dancers' beautifully graphic, articulated rituals extended the grammar of classic ballet satisfyingly. But the underlying message of all this seemed not so much oblique as obscure.

NADINE MEISNER

Concerted effort

ON TUESDAY night, in an unprecedented gala event organised to boost the benevolence of the two orchestras, the London Philharmonic joined forces with the Royal Philharmonic to present a programme of Beethoven and Bartók, under the baton of Sir Georg Solti.

The two orchestras had never before shared a programme in the Royal Festival Hall and they had certainly never before appeared on stage together. This is what we were promised as an encore, after each had given its own performance: Beethoven's Symphony No 7 by the LPO, Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra by the RPO.

Since the stage was already full of each individual item, it was not clear how the orchestras were to be combined for Wagner's *Mastersingers* Overture. But no one had said that it was to be the full complement of each orchestra, and the event the joint band was the usual (Wagnerian) size: most departments.

The overture was propelled in celebratory spirit, with urgent tempos and thrusting rhythms. There was, it is true, a preponderance of horn tone in an extended passage where they are subsidiary material. But his was due less to an excess of players than to

LPO/RPO/Solti Festival Hall

Solti's penchant for highlighting unimportant detail.

There were vigour and high spirits aplenty in the Beethoven, too. After an Allegretto of exceptional muscularity, the Scherzo and its Trio were rattled off. The last movement, like the first, had an incisive edge, but no great underlying purpose.

The RPO played well for Solti, nevertheless, as did the LPO in the Bartók. Here at last there was an awareness of something significant beneath the surface. The Elegia picked up the ruminative mood of the work's opening and developed it into an eruption of passion, the sharp rhythms of Paul Beniston's trumpet figures cutting brilliantly through the texture. The humorous episode of the "Interrupted Intermezzo" was not exaggerated, the trombone raspberries being executed crisply, so that more emphasis was laid, rightly, on the peals of woodwind laughter.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Richard Morrison puts the delights of this year's 'Centenary' BBC Proms into alphabetical order

Proms from A to Z



A is for Arena. Sweaty, crowded and seatless, but the Albert Hall arena is the place to be from July 21 to September 16. And a season ticket for all 70 concerts is, at £120 (£70 upstairs), still the best musical bargain around.

B is for BBC, proprietor of the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts since 1927. A takeover by BSkyB is not thought to be imminent. Radio 3 will broadcast all concerts live. BBC TV will show ten.

C is for Centenary, which the Proms are celebrating this year. A feeling of déjà vu may be attributed to the fact that last year was marketed as the Proms' 100th season. A nice distinction! The emphasis then was on retrospection; this year it is on looking forward. Nevertheless, one concert (Aug 10), on the 100th anniversary day, will partially recreate not only the authentic programme but the authentic playing style, using the New Queen's Hall Orchestra.

D is for Drummond, John. A volatile mixture of temperament and talent, he has run the Proms with flair and energy for ten years. This is his last season. Despite his age (60), some see the general director's office at the Royal Opera House as his next natural habitat. Either way, he is unlikely to end up managing Nigel Kennedy.

E is for E flat: the first note of the First Night (July 21). And what a note: a blast of organ. It heralds Mahler's Eighth Symphony, which for once is likely to come close to justifying its nickname, "Symphony of a Thousand". Andrew Davis conducts no fewer than six massed choirs.

known as "Indistinguishable". Actually, it's a fine work, and will surely be delivered with patriotic fervour by the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra (Aug 21).

J is for Jazz, now an established late-night tradition at the Proms. This year (Aug 19) it is the turn of the Julian Joseph All-Stars Big Band to lift the roof off the Albert Hall.

K is for Kenyon, Nicholas. Controller of BBC Radio 3, he succeeds Drummond as Proms overlord next year. A former *Times* critic, and thus by definition a person of exquisite taste, he is nevertheless a controversial figure as he tries to adapt Radio 3 and the BBC's house orchestras to the modern musical world. Expect one or two "over my dead body" campaigns if he tampers with Proms tradition.

L is for Last Night, an orgy of mock-jingoism (at least, I think it's mock) which this year (Sept 16) is neatly punctuated by the world premiere of a piece called *Panic* by that avant-garde master, Sir Harrison Birtwistle. Let's see what the global TV audience makes of that.

M is for Mahler. The Proms offer all ten of the anguished maestro's symphonies, plus the big song-cycles. Rather perversely, though, the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra will play Bruckner (Aug 15).

N is for Ninth. Not for the first time, Beethoven's *Choral Symphony* is ousted from its traditional place on the penultimate night to make way for, you guessed, a Mahler symphony. The *Choral Symphony* does surface on Sept 8 conducted by Tadaaki Otaka.

O is for Owen, Wilfred, whose poetry features so movingly in Britten's *War Requiem*. Jane Glover conducts the 1962 work on Sept 3, the day war broke out in 1939.

P is for Purcell. There's no escaping the tercentenary boy. At the Proms you can here his anthems and sublime Queen Mary Funeral Music (July 30), his semi-opera *King Arthur* (Aug 13), and a staging of *Dido and Aeneas* (Sept 6) that promises all sorts of choreographic flourishes.

Q is for Queue. For popular programmes the Proms queue snakes through South Ken for hundreds of yards. It is, in fact, one of Britain's greatest queues, and many a

torrid sexual relationship owes its origin to a shared Kit-Kat in Prince Consort Road. Or so I'm told.

R is for Reich. Minimalism may be on the wane, but Steve Reich goes on and on. The world premiere of his *Proverbs* (Sept 7), along with his busy and bizarre *City Life*, should be a season highlight.

S is for Slow Music. And it doesn't come more harsheped than in Arvo Pärt's *St John Passion* (Jul 24). After

T is for Toccata and Fugue in D minor, Bach's Gothic-horror epic, in Stokowski's gargantuan orchestral arrangement, is played by the very orchestra that Stokowski made great: the Philadelphia. Under Wolfgang Sawallisch, this venerable ensemble plays two Proms (Aug 24, 25).

U is for Unusually Long and Wacky Title. There is usually one in every batch of Proms premieres, and this year it belongs to James Wood's *Two men meet, each presuming the other to be from a distant planet* (Sept 11).

V is for Variation. As a variation on simply conducting Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, Leonard Slatkin is going to talk about them first (July 24). Perhaps he knows the answer to the enigma.

W must be for *Waltzing Matilda*, which is unlikely to be the encore at the Sydney Symphony Orchestra's Proms (Aug 30, 31), but you never know.

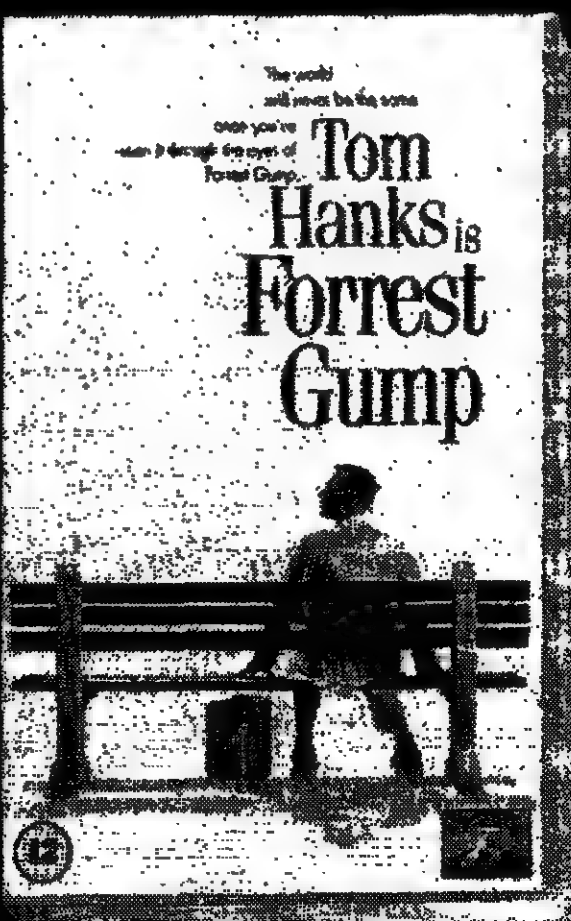
X is for Xenakis. There is only 15 minutes' worth of the man's impenetrable music in this year's Proms, and that is wittily sandwiched between a medieval Mass and a Mozambique *timbila* recital. So let us move swiftly on to...

Y is for top Youth orchestras. The European Union Youth Orchestra plays on Aug 5; our National Youth Orchestra responds the following night; and the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie performs on Sept 12. And finally...

Z is for Zimmermann, of which there are two in the 1995 Proms. The late Bernd Alois Zimmermann composed epic collages. His *Photopsis* is played on Sept 12. The next evening, Frank Peter Zimmermann tackles the Brahms Violin Concerto.

• The BBC Proms Guide is on sale from next Tuesday, price £3.50. Postal booking opens on May 11

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Norman Stone, recently back from the Moscow archives, on an entertaining but unsound account of Hitler's death

Is anyone kidding us about the last days of Adolf Hitler?

Some years ago the surgeon Hugh Thomas (not to be confused with the historian of the same name) caused a little scandal with an entertaining book, saying that Rudolf Hess was an invention. There had certainly been a real Hess who had been Hitler's deputy. That Hess had had his world-historical moment when he flew to make peace (along the lines more recently advocated by Alan Clark) before Germany attacked the Soviet Union. This was bizarre enough — as if Lord Halifax had crash-landed in Franconia on a similar mission before Pearl Harbor. Did he do this with Hitler's authorisation?

Thomas did not say, but, whatever the case, he claimed that the Hess had disappeared. A double was substituted by the British, took part in the Nuremberg trials, and was then sentenced to life in Spandau prison. Life was life, and very, very long. For over 40 years, for 20 of them the last remaining prisoner, Hess was guarded by troops of the four Allies. Then he died, aged 93, in 1987 — probably strangling himself.

According to Thomas, the aircraft that landed in Scotland had not been the aircraft that took off from Augsburg. The Spandau Hess was examined by Thomas, and showed no trace of a bad wound known to have been incurred in 1916. The British Government gave Thomas some plausibility because it refused to release the sensitive documents: some of them are still under lock and key, and the Russians have muttered darkly about an Anglo-German conspiracy ever since. There certainly were (and are) mysteries connected with the British treatment of Hess, whether in 1941 or later. Why was this quarter-crazed old man, not just quietly released as, after all, Schacht, Krupp, Neurath and Papen were, having been much more effective supporters of Hitler than ever Hess was?

Thomas established his *prima facie* case with mainly forensic evidence. There was, however, one thing devastatingly wrong with it all. The Hess family had no doubts about the Spandau prisoner. The other Nazi leaders imprisoned in Spandau also knew their Hess of old. Pedantic housewifery is characteristic of Hess; Albert Speer recounts how Hess, early on in the imprisonment, took offence at Speer's leaving the prison-broom, for the next user, at 60 degrees to

the wall rather than 45; he then "cut" Speer in the exercise-yard for the next 15 years. The Nuremberg defendants had all known Hess for decades, and never expressed any doubts that the Hess of 1945 was the same as the Hess of 1933. Nor did any of the Spandau prisoners, decades later. This greatly damages Thomas's case, however complicated his forensic evidence.

Was there a truly sinister explanation for the British silence? Our documents may reveal that Hess had some connection with the Duke of Windsor, who may, in turn, have compromised himself. And it is likely that the British used the whole affair to maximal effect in Moscow: they could threaten an Anglo-German alliance against Moscow unless Stalin abandoned his own pact with Hitler.

The idea that there was a Hess double, planned for sinister purposes by the British, smells to me of KGB gossip, and perhaps even of a planned disinformation campaign. Thomas himself had seen Hess in Spandau; perhaps, though he never says so, his theory of a Hess double came from some Soviet medic in the Spandau mess.

Now Thomas has tried it again, again quite entertainingly, and again with some sort of shadowy Soviet involvement. He has tried to tell the story of the Berlin bunker, the famous *Last Days of Hitler*, on which Hugh Trevor-Roper wrote a classic and multi-translated account in 1947. Thomas does not like Trevor-Roper. He relies on Russian documents to say why. Trevor-Roper said that Hitler killed



The last picture of Hitler alive, in the ruins of his chancellery



Adolf Hitler, pictured in Munich on the "Day of German Art" in Munich, July 1939: one of many vivid colour stills from a rare amateur film of this Nazi pageant first shown on Channel 4 in 1993, now reproduced in *Weekend in Munich: Art, Propaganda and Terror in the Third Reich* by Robert Wistrich (Pavilion, £19.95)

himself by shooting, and that Eva Braun, his mistress, had taken poison. Thomas says, no: Hitler was murdered, and Eva Braun had a dummy substituted, which was then killed, and Eva Braun's dentures placed under the tongue to mislead the Russians who came to investigate the circumstances.

Not only that, Hess's successor as Hitler's deputy was Martin Bormann, who was much more efficient and much more evil than Hess. He had broken out of the bunker, Trevor-Roper thought that he had been killed in Berlin, and later witnesses agreed.

Thomas says no: he escaped, eventually to Paraguay. When, in

1972, a supposed Bormann skeleton was dug up during excavations in Berlin, and identified by its teeth, that, too, was a substitution. All of this is argued with reference to forensic science, and some of it to unidentified "Russian archives" which someone unnamed has procured and translated (or mis-translated: the German names are retransliterated: English-fashion, so that a bullet hole the size of *tri mark*, meaning a three-mark coin, is rendered as "three stamps" — a mistake that allows Thomas to indulge his theory further).

Thomas writes testily and with energy, and the book, as with its predecessor on Hess, is not entirely valueless. It catalogues the searches and newspaper stories that went on for decades, over Latin America, about a supposed surviving Bormann (there were others, too). Sums of money were extracted from excited editors; a supposed CIA man, the wonderfully named "Ladislav Farago" (the name means "carver" in Hungarian) had fun with his "sightings" but he was far from being alone. I have sometimes wondered whether Mossad did not deliberately foment such stories as a way of maintaining consciousness of the Holocaust, without having the embarrassment of another Eichmann trial. On the forensic side, Thomas can deploy an argument — that blood-spots noted in the bunker must have come from this rather than that. In general, he relies upon a Russian document, Lev Bezymenski's book on Hitler's

death, an English translation of which appeared a quarter-century ago. Bezymenski claimed that Hitler had poisoned himself, after murdering Eva Braun; he did not say where the bodies had gone. Thomas contests most of this, pursues his forensic arguments, quotes his Russian documents without source or verification, and comes up with his own story.

It is nonsense. Absolutely every single witness of Hitler's last days agreed that he had committed suicide. He had said he would, a week before, when the Russians started bombarding Berlin. To make sure that he died, he both

and his version (compared with the Russians', most of which I have seen in Moscow) stands up quite well. The Russians used other methods — starvation, cold, beatings-up — and expected their witnesses to recall small details a year after the event. It helped that the Bunker story did sound incredible — the Hitler entourage falling apart in much the same way as a crowd of "Krauts" at the end of some *Guns of Navarone* or *Where Eagles Dare*.

Not surprisingly, the Russians were bewildered, although Stalin's court were also no slouches when it came to surreal behaviour. The NKVD then imagined that there had been a plot, using a double, to smuggle Hitler out, and that the witnesses were all colluding in lies. Thomas does know some of this story, but not what to make of it: he even ends up with a version of it.

He has missed Bezymenski's own *mea culpa* in *Der Spiegel* in 1992, in which he apologised for having misled the West. "History is a vengeful lady," he confessed. "She always catches up with you." Bezymenski agreed that he had known far more of the story than, in his book, "they" had let him say. Therefore, almost up to the 50th anniversary of his death, we still did not really know quite what had happened to Hitler's body, and could still be misled by strange tales à la Thomas and Farago, which, in turn, led some Russians

who knew their West to think that there was money in telling fetched stories.

And that is the truly interesting part in it all. The details of Hitler's last days are now known, exhaustively — a recent issue of *Spiegel* has added some more — and of course they make a tale worth telling. We know quite well how Hitler committed suicide. What we do not know, though I have been working on this in the archives of the NKVD, is why the Russians made such an extraordinary mystery.

It was only in Bezymenski's *Spiegel* interview, in 1992, that we even learnt what they had done with the boxes of remains that they had taken for autopsy. Fust Trevor-Roper had said, grandly that the destroyer of mankind had ended, as he would have wished Alaric-the-Goth-fashion, with his remains scattered namelessly to the bottom of the River Businto in southern Italy. No: it was parking lot in Magdeburg; and they were destroyed in 1970 on KGB orders.

We now know why. The Russians, it seems, were worried that the then West German Chancellor Willy Brandt's ecstatic welcome by the East German crowds at Erfurt that year might lead, some day no far off, to German reunification and thence to a martyr's shrine: Adolf Hitler. Concor Cruise O'Brien did indeed predict this in *77 Times* when the Wall came down 20 years later. But in fact there has been no serious attempt in the new, unified Germany to rehabilitate the Third Reich, much less inaugurate a Fourth.

DOPPELGÄNGERS
The Truth about the Bodies in the Berlin Bunker
By Hugh Thomas
Fourth Estate, £17.99

A brief history of the wickedest lie of all

Deborah Lipstadt caused her friends some consternation when she decided to devote her academic research to the denial of the Holocaust. She was seen as giving the anti-Semites too much credibility: they were in no way worthy of academic study, far less of a book of this substance to attack them.

Few of those who held that opinion in the United States would still do so. More people in Britain might, precisely because we have not seen the Holocaust deniers grow as much in influence. The gradual move into academic respectability on campus after campus in America has no real parallel. Of everything Lipstadt chronicles in this scholarly but readable volume, it is the campus story that is the most compelling. In 1991, a Californian called Bradley Smith attempted to place an advertisement denying the Holocaust in college newspapers across the United States, gaining considerable publicity out of the fact that many colleges rejected him. On some campuses, the very fact of the debate provoked angry demonstrations against Holocaust denial, and encouraged students to take up options for studying the Holocaust.

Yet Smith was clever in his use of argument, as the political correctness debate swept America. "The politically cor-

Julia Neuberger

DENYING THE HOLOCAUST
The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory
By Deborah Lipstadt
Penguin, £8.99
paperback original

rect line on the Holocaust story is, simply, it happened. You can't debate it." Universities, susceptible to the political correctness gibe, began to accept the ad. But the University of Michigan went further. The advertisement had probably slipped through the college newspaper net unread. But, once it had appeared, the editorial board tried to turn a mistake into an issue of principle. The university president, James Duderstadt, asserted that the newspaper had a long tradition of editorial freedom that had to be protected even when "we disagree either with particular opinions, decisions or actions". He had raised Holocaust denial to a matter of opinion, rather than fact, and the editorial board began to draw on the First Amendment, guaranteeing free speech.

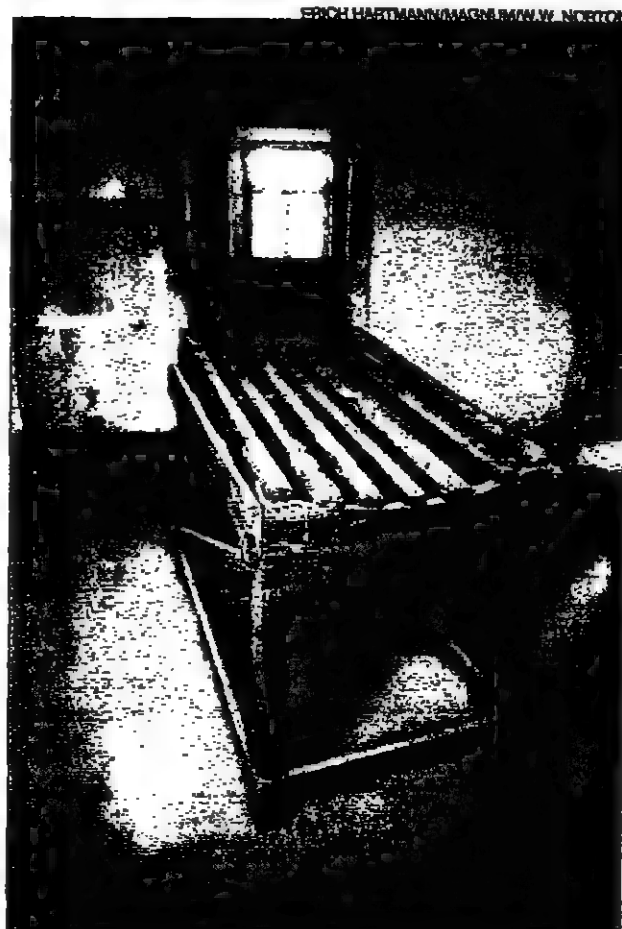
Some universities argued — Harvard, Chicago and Tennessee among them — that all this had nothing to do with the

First Amendment. However, they did not point out, although they could have, that most of the newspapers have policies which prevent them running racist, sexist and religiously offensive advertisements. But the damage was done. Some universities were publishing this stuff as legitimate, if outlandish, opinion. It appeared that students could not tell the difference between opinion and fact. The lesson of deconstructionism in academic life, half understood by so many, was that all opinions were valid. Nothing was more important than anything else. Facts were really simply received opinions.

So the results of the Roper Poll in April 1993, trying to determine the extent of Americans' knowledge of the Holocaust, should not be wholly surprising. The question, clumsily phrased (which may partly explain the result, was: "Do you think it is possible or impossible that the Holocaust did not happen?" Twenty-two per cent of American adults and 20 per cent of American high school students answered, "Yes, it was possible." A similar question posed in Britain and France evoked only 7 per cent of yeses. Another poll, by Gallup, found 83 per cent of Americans saying it had happened, 13 per cent that it had probably happened, and only 4 per cent

doubting. So the extent of the success of the Holocaust deniers in reaching the mainstream in their views is limited. But they were making some headway in claiming it was a matter of opinion. Yet those who give any kind of credence to Holocaust denial would not try to deny the Second World War, or even the battle of Agincourt. The anti-Semitic motives are clear. What is less clear is the muddled motives of those who give them house-room in magazines and colleges. It is that muddle and disregard for the truth which Lipstadt exposes so beautifully. While German judges in Baden-Württemberg were put on sick leave for giving a lenient sentence to a Holocaust denier (the Günther Deckert case in 1994), it is bizarre that Holocaust denial should be a free speech issue in the United States. But, precisely because it is, it is very dangerous.

The answer lies in better education about the Holocaust. Perhaps most importantly, whilst they are still alive those who witnessed and experienced it all should be encouraged to recount their memories in spoken or written form, so that those who are foolish enough to listen to the deniers can hear the testimony of survivors, and realise that there cannot be any doubt. The Holocaust is fact, painful fact though it may be.



Flogging bench, Natzweiler concentration camp, Alsace: one of many moving photographs of relics of the Holocaust by Erich Hartmann, from *In the Camps* (Norton, £25)

The worst part of valour

Adam Le Bor

THE PAST WITHIN ME
Memoirs of a Warsaw Ghetto Fighter
By Simha Rotem
Yale University Press, £11

IT SEEMS incredible that anyone survived the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of April 1943, when handfuls of lightly armed Jews held off the Nazi tanks, machine-guns and artillery for weeks. It seems doubly amazing that someone could have survived having fought in the revolt as a soldier in ZOB (the valiant, doomed Jewish militia), escaped, posed as a Gentile with a false Aryan identity and then returned for the second ill-fated uprising against the Germans in 1944 to fight again.

Simha Rotem did all of these. His book, translated from the Hebrew and edited by Barbara Harshav, is a personal memoir, a straightforward narrative which makes no claims to philosophical analysis, but is all the more powerful for its simplicity. He records the exhilaration of exploding an underground mine at the ghetto gate as the Germans marched in on April 20, 1943, the first day of Passover. For once, it was German corpses which were piled high.

There was, of course, black and white: the Nazi war machine massed against the ZOB fighters, in their teens and early 20s. But there were many shades of grey as well, for not all the ghetto's inhabitants supported the uprising.

Jewish collaborators within the Ghetto were executed. A Jewish businessman's daughter was kidnapped to force him to fund the militia. Jewish policemen who acceded to Eichmann's plan to nuke Eastern Europe's Jews helped organise their own destruction were held at gunpoint while ZOB liberated their prisoners before the Gestapo got them. Rotem is one of the last survivors of one of the bravest battles in the Second World War. His memoirs are a moving record of the greatest heroism and a chronicle of humanity's darkest hour.

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Surveying a score of VE-Day books, Alistair Horne is struck by the fortitude with which civilians endured the war

Victory at all costs, and how we lived through it

Last year's crop of books landing on the market around D-Day was predominantly military in tone. This year, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the ending of the war in Europe, appropriately the most outstanding have an emphasis on how civil populations coped.

Like almost everything he writes, Philip Ziegler's *London at War: 1939-45* (Sindbad, £20) shines with a mixture of dry wit and compassion, and is sparsely yet agreeably written. As well as the official archives and such unobtainable stand-bys as the late Constantine FitzGibbon's *The Blitz*, Ziegler makes liberal use of unpublished letters and diaries of "ordinary people", notably those of George and Helena Britton, a retired couple living in Walthamstow who wrote weekly letters to their daughter in California.

Pre-war governments got it horribly wrong when estimating the effects of a German bombing of London. Perhaps they had read too much H.G. Wells. Baldwin's gloomy pronouncement in 1931, "the bomber will always get through", set the RAF off on its questionable, and hazardous, course of all-for-strategic bombing — which nearly cost us the Battle of Britain. The Air Staff estimated chillingly that "within 24 hours 58,000 Londoners would have been killed". There would not be enough timber for coffins; 3-4 million people would suffer from hysteria; gas would certainly be used (it never was). One good product of all this terror talk was the invention of the amazingly simple Anderson shelter; that and the (tardy) use of Tube stations saved thousands of lives.

When the dreaded day came, September 3, 1939, it began in London with an air-raid siren — caused, Ziegler tells us, by an off-course French ally. The evacuees returned, by the thousand. For a year the "Phoney War" continued; the chief enemy was boredom, and the hazards of the blackout. But there was also a certain beauty about the trafficless and darkened city: "a fresh tang in the air, which was no longer laden with petrol fumes, and for the first time we knew how enchanting the city looked by moonlight".

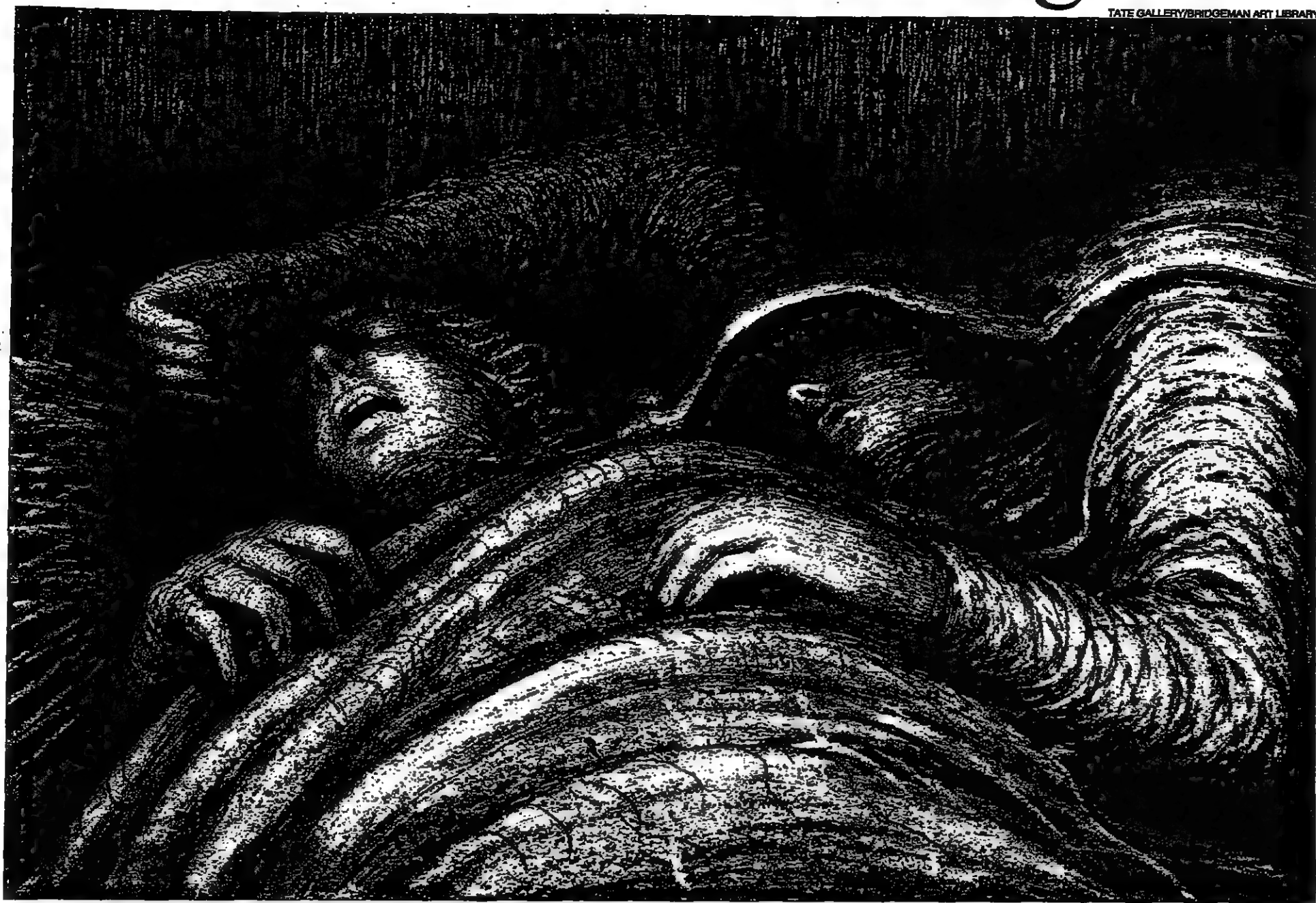
Not for long. On August 24, 1940, at the height of the Battle of Britain, a first German bomb hit London — probably by mistake. The RAF retaliated with a pinpoint raid on Berlin, and — in the remorseless war has of escalating — Hitler had his excuse and a circle of revenge began. By daylight on September 7, he switched his bombers from attacking Fighter Command bases — one of his cardinal errors — to an indiscriminate blitz on civilian London.

Watching the docks and the flimsy houses of the East End blaze, Ted Harrison in Hackney thought: "Blimey, we've lost the war!" In those first terrible days of the Blitz, pre-war fears looked as if they might be realised. "Our brave warden, who for months had been swaggering in his uniform," wrote Mr Kyle of West Ham, "was cowering against the wall under concrete steps, sobbing." (In West Ham, the Labour council's administration broke down; though it was one of few to do so.) In one Stepney shelter, women succumbed to hysteria during the first raids — but returned calm and collected four nights later.

Soon even the canals in the zoo didn't get up when bombs fell nearby. The first to endow London with its spectacularism, American correspondents such as Ed Murrow and Quentin Reynolds, got the message; but Churchill and the RAF "Bomber Barons" never did. Assuming that German civilians would somehow prove more brittle, they went on bombing the Reich all the time there was nothing left to hit — at a cost of nearly 56,000 dead out of the RAF total of 72,794.

During the first Blitz, Ziegler notes admiringly, the nerve of Londoners "never broke"; indeed, the civil defenders grew steadily tougher, more efficient, more resilient. They "passed with honour". In the spring of 1941, there were two last crushing blows, worse than anything before. Still morale was undented; instead there was "only a passionately expressed hope there would be instant retaliation". After the terrible punishment inflicted by the Luftwaffe on London, the average Briton was unlikely to be as concerned about the effects of area-bombing Germany as we are today. London 1940-41 led directly to Dresden 1945.

With his hands full in Russia for the next two and a half years, Hitler left London alone. Then, in the winter of 1943-44 the Luftwaffe returned to the vicious "little Blitz". The Moral: did not crack, but the mood became more sombre. For the first time, looting became serious. As Churchill's



Pink and Green Sleepers by Henry Moore, one of the celebrated series of air-raid shelter scenes which the sculptor drew while working as a war artist in the Blitz, 1940-42

secretary, Jack Colville, recorded, "we are war-winter-weary". The biggest dip in morale, as Ziegler correctly notes, came with the promiscuous onslaught of the V1 bombs in June and July of 1944 — despite the exhilarating news from Normandy. Finally, there were the V2s, almost more terrifying with their complete lack of warning. Between them, Hitler's "revenge weapons" accounted for 9,000 dead, with 30,000 London houses destroyed and 1.25 million damaged.

The last V2 landed in March 1945, only weeks before Hitler's final defeat. For London the cost was over half the nation's serious or fatal injuries suffered from bombing: 80,000; 30 per cent of the city was virtually destroyed, including 15 Wren churches. Germany paid with nearly 600,000 civilian deaths.

During the worst of the London Blitz, there was a

gaiety (says Ziegler quoting Alan Ross) "that never seems to have been repeated". Temporarily, the churches filled; daytime concerts by Myra Hess in the National Gallery sold out. Full of idealism and hope, people queued to buy the Beveridge report, "as if it was unrationed manna from some heaven". There were blueprints for a new London to arise from the ashes.

As always, Ziegler writes with a compelling charm that almost persuades one that he actually likes it. The only sour passage is when he reflects disillusion at the brave schemes for rebuilding London. "Fifty years have passed, and things have gone wrong." *Si monumentum requiris*, and the monument is to socialist so-called planning. Mrs Britton "was betrayed, and London with her".

If Ziegler's heroes are the ordinary people of London, and (justly) Queen Elizabeth and the Queen Mother — who fiercely declined to move out — then David Reynolds's hero in *Rich Relations: The American Occupation of Britain, 1942-45* (HarperCollins, £25) is Eisenhower. Though he may not have been history's greatest strategist, had he not been such an Anglophile, the American "occupation" of Britain from 1942-45 might have been a sullen affair, with ill consequences for morale.

Reynolds has committed himself to the notion that the "Special Relationship" was all a sentimental myth, or purely a community of transient interests. All through his book he struggles to maintain the theme, but finally recognises its existence on the personal level — and its transcending significance in winning the war. Like the good academic

he is, he has read every book — and (unlike Ziegler) left little out. Irritatingly, he picks up every old chestnut, from the two GIs and Lady Godiva to the pregnant lady in the Pentagon, taking as his theme the ancient British plaint about the Americans being "overpaid and oversexed".

Hoary as it may be, however, this last does provide a good starting point for examining the principal cause of strife between wartime Limeys and Yanks: the GIs were just too rich. (In contrast were the only marginally less affluent Canadians in Britain, part of whose pay their wise Government retained at home.) The result is an outstanding study of a most important aspect of the war, never before examined in such depth.

For most GIs, "the Depression", as Reynolds points out, "had been the formative experience"; they had not joined the army voluntarily — it was automatic that they had to be properly paid, and fed. On arriving in a Britain that had been at war, largely alone, for the previous three years, one GI from Kansas found the natives "the most economically backward people I have ever encountered. Labour-saving devices and short-cut business methods are heartily resisted... Too much tea drinking..."

To the British, fatigued with too much war and too little food, the Yanks came as a breath of fresh air. Sometimes too fresh. They liked their guests' friendliness, but some, like Harold Nicolson (who never really understood Americans) grumbled about their "eternal superficiality". For British girls in the munitions plants, knowing nothing of America but what Hollywood portrayed, they represented unheard-of glamour; money gave sex-appeal an extra dimension — so did the snazzy uniform of even the lowliest Pfc, compared with the ill-fitting British battle-dress. Under Ike's urging, many GIs made close friends with a British family; a few didn't want to know — they were an army of occupation and the sooner it was Over-Over-There, the better.

The worst enemy, as Ziegler found and Reynolds repeatedly stresses, was boredom. It took the edge off military preparedness. Men who arrived half-trained had little opportunity to improve. One US division, the 29th, spent 20 months waiting in England. Its baptism of fire on Omaha Beach on D-Day was a devastating experience. The lack of training areas, compared with the vast open spaces of the US, also caused tank crews to suffer when they faced the Normandy bogues.

Nobody was better aware than Ike — except perhaps Monty — of the dangers of

boredom among troops waiting "for combat endlessly postponed". Elaborate welfare and entertainment schemes were set up. Under the admirable Lady Reading, thousands of WVS members pitched in to help. The American Red Cross, however, comes in for stern criticism for blocking contacts between British servicemen and GIs.

The problems posed by the sheer weight of numbers were immense: on the eve of D-Day, there were more than 1.5 million Americans in Britain. Two of the best chapters of *Rich Relations* deal with the US air forces in Britain and the black servicemen. In 1939, the British black community numbered some 8,000; there was no racial tension, and many were shocked by importation of harsh US "Jim Crow Laws", imposing segregation. Often there would be fights in pubs over British women. One of Ike's staff reports before D-Day gave warning: "If the invasion doesn't occur soon, trouble will..."

The one arm of the American forces in constant combat since 1942 was General Spaatz's Eighth US Air Force, whose B-17 Flying Fortresses carried the war to Germany by daylight. It was a stressful, bizarre life (and often a tragically short one): "At 9 o'clock in the morning we could be bombing Berlin, and at midnight at a fancy dance in London." Their losses were appalling: in one week in July 1943, General Eaker's strength

was reduced from 330 aircraft and crews to fewer than 200.

It was perhaps this which gave the US airmen flying out of East Anglia an enhanced "Special Relationship" with the locals. Singularly appropriate today, 50 years later, too, is the joint Anglo-American scheme to commemorate their sacrifice by the installation of a special US Air Force Museum at Duxford in Cambridgeshire, with imaginative architecture by Norman Foster.

When the war ended, says Reynolds, it left Britain open to Americanisation, and the GIs knowing more about America as well as Britain. Many a GI took home a bride (despite the obstacles imposed by US bureaucracy). Those who did not return are not forgotten; at Maddingly Cemetery outside Cambridge, Reynolds five decades later found fresh flowers on the grave of an American flyer killed in February 1944, with a note:

All my love
As always,
And thank you, Michael
Mary.

An occupation of British territory of a very different kind was the Germans' five-year sojourn in the Channel Islands. Yet, compared with conditions just a few miles across the waters in Normandy, it was not harsh — in fact, almost gentlemanly. Asa Briggs casts the expert eye of the historian over it in a well-illustrated and admirable account which, if anything, is

almost too short. He introduces *The Channel Islands, Occupation and Liberation, 1940-1945* (Batsford, £7.99) with the provocative thought: what would have happened in Britain had the Germans invaded? Too small for there to be any mountain hideouts for a Resistance, the islands also saw none of the vicious hostage-taking as in Occupied Europe. There was, inevitably, some collaboration *horizontale* — though nothing on the scale of the *Ariettes* of Paris (claiming "mon cul est international, mais mon coeur est toujours français"). Briggs is discreet, but a little jingle went the rounds:

F stands for Feathers which
Will decorate Jerrybags
after the war.

Nevertheless, none of the savage *deportations* experienced in post-Liberation France took place in the Channel Islands. As a heroine, noble and dignified, emerges the feudal Dame de Sark, who took personally the surrender of the last 275 Germans on the island: "I have been left for nearly five years," she loftily told the British relief force. "I can stand a few more days."

A scrappier and less satisfactory picture-book, given the stature of its subject, is *What did you do in the War, Auntie?* The BBC at War, 1939-45 by Tom Hickman (BBC, £15.99). The BBC's function in war deserves a monument — if for no other purpose than for its present grandees to use as a touchstone from time to time. Their tools were primitive; at the front the "warriors" travelled in highly targetable recording trucks called "Belindas"; for recording they used a spring-wound gramophone called a "Mighty Midget" — which at 425 was neither the Germans had used tape recorders for several years: Auntie was still "evaluating" them. And the censor was often heavy-handed.

Comedy programmes like *ITMA*, made on a shoe-string and uniting the country in mirth, must have been worth divisions of troops in terms of wartime morale. (Tommy Handley should have been made a duke, or a field-marshal). Their quality points up the tawdriness of today's costly sit-coms. Similarly with the *Warcos* and commentators: modest, responsible, restrained and usually acting as their own censors, they were taken fully into the confidence of commanders such as Monty: men like Frank Gillard, Richard Dimbleby, Chester Wilton and Alvar Liddell seem like a race of titans compared with today's sniping instant experts.

Anyone who wants to savour the exact mood across the world of that magical day of May 8, 1945, should read *The Day the War Ended* by

Martin Gilbert (*HarperCollins*, £20), biographer of Churchill and now court scribe to John Major. Somehow the amazingly prolific Gilbert (his "books by..." now run off the page) has managed to find time to compile an extraordinarily readable account of what everybody, literally everybody, was doing and thinking on VE-Day. It will be an essential companion for historians.

Lighter in weight, but drawing its material from firsthand interviews and diaries, is Russell Miller's *Ten Days in May: The People's Story of VE Day* (Michael Joseph, £15.99). I found particularly poignant a photograph of a wounded GI on crutches, watching the tickertape rain down in New York — and no doubt wondering what the future held for him.

Another predominantly picture book, with a first-class text, is the *War Museum's Victory in Europe: The North West European Campaign, 1944-45*, by ex-Major-General Julian Thompson (*Sidgwick & Jackson*, £25), who commanded 3rd Commando Brigade in the Falklands. With the eye of the professional, Thompson succeeds in matching personal accounts of the last year of the war to a judicious historical commentary.

Covering much the same ground in greater detail is *The Conquest of the Reich: D-Day to VE-Day — A Soldier's History*, by Robin Neillands (*Weidenfeld & Nicolson*, £20); while Colin John Bruce's *War on the Ground* (Constable, £15.95) gives an anecdotal history of the British Army in the Second World War, considering it to have been an underprivileged arm.

A "must" for the military buff is Jane's weighty *All the World's Aircraft, 1945: Collector's Edition* (HarperCollins, £29.99). With exhaustive detail of more than 800 aircraft, it needs no description. But a book to which I shall constantly refer is the equally weighty *Oxford Companion to the Second World War* (OUP, £30). It is edited by M.R.D. Foot, official chronicler of SOE, and a most meticulous historian.

Inevitably, with a work of this magnitude, there are errors and omissions. I was surprised to find no entry for Admiral Sir Max Horton, the man who contributed so much to defeating the U-boats in the Battle of the Atlantic nor for Colonel Stauffenberg, who led the abortive bomb plot against Hitler in July 1944. To one trained in tanks, the statistics on anti-tank guns also seem improbable, with the wretched British two-pounder credited with nearly four times the

range of the lethal German 88-mm. These are, however, but nit-pickings which can be dealt with in future editions.

On Michael Foot's terrain as official chronicler of SOE, the American Rita Kramer has written *Flames in the Field: The Story of Four SOE Agents in Occupied France* (Michael Joseph, £18.99), a harrowing account of four women agents who dropped in France in 1943: Andrée Borrel, Vera Leigh, Diana Rowden and Sonya Olschansky. All were rounded up and murdered, in horrible circumstances, at Natzweiler in Alsace — the only concentration camp on French soil (see picture on facing page).

It was an appalling disaster for SOE, and Foot is quoted as ascribing it to "a combination of bad security in the field, penetration by double agents, and 'undue gullibility' back in London". Rita Kramer, however, is less ready to accept this explanation. Citing the need to protect the various Allied deception plans that preceded D-Day, she hints broadly at deliberate betrayal of the women agents. A riposte from Foot is awaited.

Also on the subject of Nazi atrocities comes a grim book by Yehuda Bauer, explicitly entitled *Jews for Sale? Nazi-Jewish Negotiations, 1933-45* (Yale, £17.95). Bauer relates details, reminiscent of Schindler on a vast scale, of the attempts to purchase from Himmler an exodus for all the European Jews. He asks: should the Allies have been prepared to exchange their lives for money? Or would such transactions have constituted collaboration with the enemy? Here Martin Gilbert may have a view.

In *The Hitler Options* (Greenhill, £17.95), Kenneth Macksey as editor compiles ten "alternative decisions" whereby Hitler might have won the war. They range from a successful invasion of Britain in 1940 (but if this had succeeded, would there have been any need for the other nine "options"?), to the construction of a Nazi atom bomb. All within the realms of the possible, but also great stuff from which a Robert Harris could weave a new spine-chilling novel. More orthodox, but equally thought-provoking, on the Third Reich, is a collection of essays, *Germany, Hitler and World War II* (Cambridge, £24.95), by the American academic Gerhard L. Weinberg.

New ground is broken in an interesting book on a reluctant wartime partner of Hitler's, *The Third Axis, Fourth Ally: Romanian Armed Force in the European War, 1941-45*, by Mark Axworthy and others (*Arms & Armour*, £25). With territorial claims left over from 1914-18, Romania found herself swept up into the war on Russia and bombed by the Allies as main supplier of oil to Germany. It was against the front of the unfortunate Romanians that the deadly Soviet Stalingrad offensive was unleashed. A German officer in the Russian campaign once described to me the Romanians on the terrible retreat, a peasant army travelling with as many looted pigs-on-the-trotter as soldiers. Romania's war dead numbered 767,860, or nearly three times those of Britain. At the end, Romania switched sides; then came 45 years of Soviet domination.

This last year of the war, too, has produced several personal accounts: *An Inch of Time* by Ian Weston-Smith (*Book Guild*, £15); *A Clear Premonition: The Letters of Lieutenant Tim Lloyd to his Mother, North Africa and Italy, 1943-44*, edited by Raleigh Trevelyan (*Leo Cooper*, £14.95); *Voices from the Past* by Herbert Levy (*Book Guild*, £12.95); *Went the Day Well: Tributes to Men and Women who died for Freedom*, edited by Derek Tangye (*Michael Joseph*, £14.99); all royalties go to the Royal War and Garter Home for veterans.

Finally come the war memoirs of Douglas Fairbanks Jr., KBE, DSC, who is 86 this year: *A Hell of a War* (Robson, £16.95). Jolly moments ashore in wartime London with such *dramatis personae* as David Niven, Vivien Leigh and Noël Coward notwithstanding, Fairbanks — unlike many — enlisted Hollywood stars — spent a substantial time on active service, reaching the rank of captain in the US Navy. This is an engaging account: *Moon's a Balloon* Niven would have given it a favourable notice.

Four months after the war in Europe ended came VJ-Day. Ziegler quotes Alexander Cadogan's objection to celebratory fireworks that day: "Surely we have had enough of bangs in the last six years?" "Stuffy old guy," some of Reynolds's GIs might have commented. Yet it may well be that the Second World War will continue to dominate the bookstands longer after all who remember it are gone.



British women offer GIs tea: some Americans found Britain backward; others made the most of their wealth

Quality north of the border

THE Thistle Hotels group is spending more than £6 million on upgrading Hospitality Inn hotel in Glasgow and convention centre before re-launching it later this year. Eighty of the hotel's 307 rooms have already been refurbished, including 74 executive suites. The hotel can also host conferences for as many as 1,500 people and has 18 small eating rooms.

Meanwhile, the five-crown Quality Hotel in Aberdeen is cutting its room-only weekend rate from £75 a night to £29.95 during July and August. Accommodation is in either a club or executive room, each of which can sleep up to three people, and full Scottish breakfast is included. Reservations: 0800 444444.

Business travellers planning to stay at least twice a month at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, can get an individual telephone and fax number for their exclusive use every time they stay. Very frequent guests will also get their own room key, which, using the hotel's new electronic locks system, means they can use the same key whichever room they stay in. The hotel reopens next month after a two-year refurbishment which has cost \$100 million (\$61 million), with a \$1,000-a-head special party of Hollywood stars. Reservations via Leading Hotels of the World: 0800 181 123.

Hyatt Hotels is this month taking over the management of the 160-room Baku Hotel in the Republic of Azerbaijan, formerly part of the Soviet Union. The hotel, renamed The Hyatt Regency Baku, is aimed at international oil executives who are visiting the country.

Meanwhile, the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Hong Kong has launched a new scheme for business travellers. Called the Privilege Plan, it gives additional benefits such as a complimentary airport limousine transfer, free laundry up to a maximum five pieces a day and no surcharge for credit

ROOM SERVICE
card calls. Reservations: 01345 581066.

FANS OF KENNY BALL can catch a special show on May 12 at the Wiltshire Moat House. Cost is £117.50 per couple and includes one night's accommodation, dinner, breakfast and the jazz show. The hotel's leisure facilities include a pool, sauna and squash courts. Details: 01625 529201.

SPORTS AND activity week-ends, including golf, fishing, boating, racing and polo are being arranged this summer at Oakley Court, a Victorian country house hotel set in 25 acres of grounds on the banks of the Thames near Windsor. Rates include two nights' accommodation and dinner on one night, plus the sporting activity. Details: 01753 609988.

SPORTS enthusiasts looking for a more exotic hotel holiday can take advantage of a package at ITT Sheraton's two luxury hotels in Venice, the Excelsior and Hotel des Bains. For £835 and £535 per person respectively, guests get seven nights accommodation (but not air fares) and use of all sports facilities, including golf, tennis, sailing and windsurfing. Additional benefits include use of the Venice Club gold card enabling guests to free motor-boat shuttle between Venetian hotels, free entry to the casino and credit charging facilities. Reservations: 0800 353 555.

LEADING hotels in the North of England have produced a joint marketing brochure called *Fine Individual Hotels*, listing the 16 hotels in the scheme, all graded as four crowns or above. Hotels include Etrac Grange at Manchester airport, Devonshire Arms in North Yorkshire and Langdale Hall and Country Club. Details: 01625 537583.

DAVID CHURCHILL

Putting on the Ritz again

David Churchill talks to the men who transformed one of the most famous names in the hotel business

THIS weekend the Ritz Hotel in London will be full for the first Bank Holiday week-end in memory — a result not only of leading international figures staying in London for the VE-Day celebrations but of the new spirit at one of the world's leading hotels.

Exactly a year ago, the responsibility for running the Ritz was taken over by the Hong Kong-based Mandarin Oriental group, operators of some of the leading hotels in the Far East.

For Robert Riley, Mandarin's managing director, the move was an ideal stepping stone into its first European venture. "The Ritz remains one of the best hotel names in the world," he said on a visit to London last week to check on the first year's progress.

Founded in Piccadilly 1906 by César Ritz, the Ritz quickly became one of the most fashionable places to stay for the rich and famous. While the famous still come, it is still

essential to be rich — room rates start at £195 a night and go up to £740 for a suite.

The new general manager, Brian Williams, who joined a year ago from the Mandarin Oriental in Macau, says that one of his first moves was to reopen the closed hotel entrance in Piccadilly (access for many years has been only through the Arlington Street entrance). "We thought it was an appropriate way to show people that we were not stuffy and wanted to be open to all," he says.

Mr Riley says that Mandarin's concern for customer service "emphasises the fierce competition all luxury hotels now face, especially in the Far East, for business travellers". As a consequence, he merged the group's human resources and operating departments in 1990 to "ensure that the senior



Williams and Riley

people running the hotels also had responsibility for the quality of staff and service levels."

Mandarin now embraces extensive training programmes for staff at all levels: those that have successfully been through the courses are entitled to wear a fan-shaped Mandarin symbol lapel pin. Mr Williams says: "We are not trying to do anything overly

sophisticated — just establishing a consistent level of service throughout the hotel."

He believes this emphasis on staff training has been the biggest change in the hotel over the past year. Although most senior management has been replaced by Mr Williams, since he took over, the bulk of the hotel's operating staff has remained. "It is really a matter of motivating them," he adds.

While capital investment is planned, Mr Williams says this will be carried out gradually over the next few years. "It is the hotel's spirit that needed changing, not the bricks and mortar."

The customer-driven approach is typified in small, and sometimes novel, ways. "When one of our elderly guests in the restaurant complained that she could not read

the menu because the type was too small, we wondered whether or not we should use a larger typeface," Mr Williams says.

"Then we hit on the idea of buying a selection of 20 or so pairs of glasses from Boots which we now keep in a presentation box and offer to guests who have forgotten their glasses — or perhaps don't realise they need them."

While most of Mandarin's dozen hotels are located in the Far East — although it operates one in San Francisco and has just taken on the contract to run a hotel in Hawaii — Mr Riley has not ruled out further expansion in Europe. "But we have to recognise we are a fairly small hotel company and expanding too fast could overstretch our ability to provide the best service to our customers," he says.

"We don't all have to be large global chains to prosper: concentrating on our top end of the market niche has proved very successful so far."

A selection of the best bargain holidays on offer this week

CITY BREAKS

BOOKINGS FOR short breaks are showing no signs of diminishing according to Premier Cities, which has sold 9,000 city-based holidays this winter. Top of the list is Paris, but the real surprise this year is Dublin, which has become the third most popular destination. The top five cities are Paris, Amsterdam, Dublin, Vienna, and Prague.

Tired of those Cadogan Travel (01703 332661) has short breaks to Tunisia, Morocco, and Madeira. With its sister company G8 Airways, it is offering a three-night stay in Hammamet in June for £261 per person, while a similar break in Marrakesh starts at £321, or from £335 per person in Funchal.

Avro (0181 715 1999) has a selection of flight-only deals from Gatwick to Alicante (£134), Arrecife (£125), Athens (£134) or Malaga (£95) for selected dates in May.

Scots can have a theatre break in London including two nights' hotel accommodation, breakfast, return rail travel, best tickets to a show, concert or sports event from £169 per person through Keith Prosser (0345-581852). Cresta Holidays (0161-9277000) has city breaks in Europe from Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow or Edinburgh on British Airways, including £170 for two nights in Paris or two nights in Geneva for £236.

The Savoy Group, which still owns the Lancaster Hotel in Paris, has



Dublin is an increasingly popular destination for weekend breaks

linked up with Le Shuttle and Eurostar to offer two nights in the hotel in the centre of the French capital over weekends from £280 per person including rail travel. (0171-572-8080)

ANYONE aged 60 and over can fly to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Perth

between now and June 15 at a return fare of £599 through Gold Medal Travel (01253-792200). Companions must be at least 55. Quest Worldwide (0181-547-3322) have the same deal but add that there is no minimum stay requirements and tickets are valid for one year. So, between May 7-June 15, does Travelwood (0171-259-0280) for meals is £865.

Walking on the wild side

Footpaths are a route march

MANY public rights of way are obstacle courses, according to *The Good Walks Guide*, published by Which? tomorrow. Marianne Curphey writes.

Researchers for the guide encountered a variety of obstacles, including stiles covered with barbed wire, overgrown and deliberately blocked paths, farmyards full of slurry with no obvious way through, and paths over arable land that were almost invisible.

The guide to 150 walks, printed in colour on A4 ringbound sheets, also criticises walkers who treat the countryside badly, paths that are not waymarked properly, empty fertiliser sacks littering the land, map-marking discrepancies and an irrational network of paths.

The editor, Tim Locke, said: "The fact that the network exists at all is to be treasured, but paths do not always go where landowners and walkers want them to."

"We found public rights of way reaching dead ends at parish boundaries, paths leading to main roads and a wall of heavy traffic. Other walks include inexplicable minor detours and little loops where it seems common sense to cut a corner," he added.

However, he said that matters were improving and between 1986 and 1991 annual expenditure on rights of way doubled from £12.3 million to £24.8 million, but progress was "piecemeal".

The guide aims to convey an impression of the terrain and ease of route-finding. Length and walking time are given for the full walk and any variants. The walks are graded and grid references are included. It can be ordered, price £25, by dialling freephone 0800 252100.

Also published this week is *The Green Travel Guide to the Lake District*, a booklet which attempts to persuade walkers and day-trippers to leave their cars at home and travel by public transport.

It has been put together by the Friends of the Lake District (01539 720788), a voluntary organisation dedicated to conserving the national park.

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كذا من الأصل

Delays will return as the Cabinet decides to shelve plans to privatise air traffic control — and the Treasury starves it of funds

Remember the bad old days when travelling by air was a nightmare of delays, vents at Gatwick, and constant announcements that aircraft could not take off because air traffic control was swamped with flights? Well, it could all be about to happen again.

In the late 1980s, everyone blamed the Civil Aviation Authority for failing to realise early enough that it needed to spend a great deal more to replace old radars and to train more controllers, who were unable to cope with the extraordinary growth in demand from scheduled and charter flights. The CAA always claimed that the criticisms were unfair.

But this time there can be no argument and the culprit is clear — the Government.

In a move that has left the airlines, the CAA and even its own senior civil servants gasping, the

Airport nightmares are on the way back

Cabinet has just decided that it can no longer proceed with the privatisation of air traffic control.

Perhaps that in itself is not surprising, given the controversy around the first attempt to hand over the responsibility for ensuring that aircraft flying over Britain kept a safe distance apart.

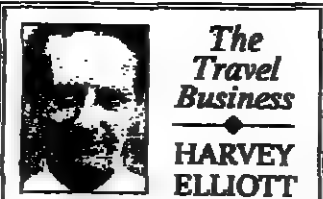
But what is staggering is that the Treasury still assumes that the air traffic control is to be privatised — and therefore will not need to raise any more cash from public sources. So, instead of allowing the CAA to borrow, under the public sector limits, the £100 million or so a year needed to keep pace with demand, the mandarins are now insisting that the CAA reduce the level of borrowing over the next

three years, then begin to repay earlier loans. The inevitable outcome, according to those involved, is that the delays and congestion will soon be as bad as ever were.

The story is one to be remembered by business travellers and holidaymakers alike as they sit fuming in airport lounges. The Government decided formally in 1993 that air traffic control was to be privatised and sent a discussion document to all interested parties for their comments.

It was full of policy and principle, but rather short on detailed proposals.

The unions were adamantly opposed to the plans and the airlines worried that the outline



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

ideas put forward would be costly and too complex.

Then the Post Office privatisation plans also ran into problems and it was decided that two attempted privatisations going through together was one too many. Legislation to remove air traffic control from public ownership was dropped.

When the PO privatisation finally

ran into the buffers, a "window of opportunity" for air traffic control suddenly appeared.

The Department of Transport hurriedly set up a series of meetings with the Civil Aviation Authority, the air traffic service, leaders of the travel industry and four of Britain's largest airlines.

Sometimes meeting secretly in the Park Lane Hotel in London, different sub-groups gradually evolved a compromise plan which, they were convinced, would be acceptable to all.

The National Air Traffic Service (Nats) would become a non-profit-making corporation, outside the public sector borrowing requirement and free to raise cash from wherever it liked. The airlines

agreed to pay off the £400 million debts accumulated by Nats and to be responsible for ensuring that the system was non-profit-making and provided to all-comers.

The new proposals, they said, would be more efficient, cost less to run and reduce the charges levied on airlines. They were all prepared to make a formal announcement when the Government dropped its bombshell.

"We have tried to persuade the Government to tell us what we are going to do now, but there is just a deafening silence," said one of those involved in the meetings. "We have the worst of all worlds — no privatisation, which would enable us to raise money on the open market, and no authority to

raise the cash through state sources.

The first funding crisis could come within the next few months when the CAA tries to raise £250 million to build a new Scottish control centre, already 18 months behind schedule and needed to guide flights across the Atlantic and over northern Britain.

Over the past few years, delays caused by air traffic control have dropped sharply but there are now signs that they are increasing. In the third quarter of last year 21 per cent of flights were delayed by more than 15 minutes, compared with 19 per cent a year earlier. Only 45 per cent of charter flights were on time, compared with 49 per cent a year earlier.

Without new equipment, say the experts, it can only get worse. Be prepared.

French win battle

France emerged as the top ski destination for British skiers last season, pushing Austria into second place for the first time, according to statistics compiled by tour operator Crystal, writes Graham Duffell.

Sterling has lost a quarter of its value in Austria over the past two years, and the country's share of the market fell from 32.8 per cent in 1992/93 to 25.9 per cent in 1994/95, with France rising from 29.3 to 31.1 per cent.

Other gains and losses also followed currency fluctuations, Switzerland falling from 10.6 per cent to 8 per cent and Italy rising from 7.9 to 13.3 per cent.

Although North America remained a very small part of the ski market — the United States and Canada rose slightly to 3.7 per cent — Crystal says the value for money which the weak Canadian dollar offers will make Canada a very attractive destination next season.

Brochures are already out and bookings to Canada are up considerably on this time last year. Austria is up 27 per cent.

Crystal claim to have emerged from last season as Britain's largest skiing tour operator, taking 19.6 per cent of the £25,000 who went skiing with holiday companies. Of the total estimated ski market of 730,000, approximately 180,000 travelled independently.

Harvey Elliott on the queue at passport control

Travelling around Europe is becoming increasingly difficult — if you are British.

While millions of people in the seven "Schengen" countries — Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, France, Germany, Spain and Portugal — can travel between their countries without a passport or any other travel document, Britons are often held up in long queues at their destination and have to buy a full passport for even the shortest trip to Europe.

Already the British Excursion Document, which cost £3 from a local Post Office and was popular for "one-off" day trips to France, has been phased out and from the end of this year the £12 British Visitors Passport, of which around a million were issued each year, will also go.

The decision to get rid of the BVP and the BED was taken last year in an effort to clamp down on football hooligans — but many day-trippers are still attempting to buy the excursion document from post offices.

Home Secretary Michael Howard said that the BVP was "a poor quality travel document which does not provide definite evidence of national status or identity."

It was often used, he said by criminals, terrorists and football hooligans and had been of "considerable concern" to police and immigration authorities for a very long time. Spain had decided to withdraw acceptance of it from October 1 and they will be useless after January 1 1996.

British penalised



The British passport no longer opens doors in Europe — now it is the equivalent of a stop sign

Passports Offices are standing by for a flood of applications for full passports which cost £18 and are valid for ten years but hope to be able to process applications in little more than a week. There will, however, be delays because of more complex information required on application forms.

In an effort to speed up the process travel agents hope to be able to process applications themselves and have had talks with the Home Office how the scheme will operate.

It is likely that they will hold forms which can be issued at the same time as the holiday-maker books a journey, and

the agent will then be able to assist in filling in the form, accept the fee and send the details electronically to the passport office. The process should be much quicker.

In the meantime many immigration staff in Europe are making life difficult for British passport holders. Belgium in particular seems determined to check every British passport closely and as passengers step off the Eurostar train at Brussels airport they are regularly held up for up to half an hour by Belgian immigration officers.

British airlines claim that they are now assigned the

worst arrival gate at airports because of the need to check passengers from outside the "Schengen" countries. For example, flights from Spain to France are now regarded as "internal" with no more controls than are used between London and Edinburgh.

Special "Schengen" arrivals lounges are now being introduced to enable passengers to disembark and leave the airport within minutes, while British flights are confined to remote areas where immigration desks have been maintained. Two other countries — Italy and Greece — have signed up to join the agree-

ment, Austria will do so soon and others are certain to join in the future, to create a vast document-free travel zone at the heart of Europe.

The government, however, insists that Britain will maintain its immigration controls.

"The Passport Agency is satisfied that the standard passport which costs £18 will provide a convenient and effective replacement for the BVP and the BED and that it will be able to provide a flexible and responsive service which fully meets the needs of the travelling public throughout the year," says the Home Office.

Saga fights for singles

The curse of the single supplement — the surcharge imposed by hotels on holidaymakers who travel alone — has been ended, at least in Britain.

After a five year long campaign Saga Holidays has persuaded all 700 hotels offered in their British holiday brochure to drop the surcharges which can add up to 50 per cent to the cost of a room for a lone holidaymaker.

Saga chairman Roger De Haan said this week that the company, which provides holidays for the over 50s, was now concentrating on forcing foreign hotels to do the same.

"For years the five million people over the age of 60 who live alone in this country have been discriminated against," said Mr De Haan. "Whenever they have been on holiday either at home or abroad they have been charged a high premium for travelling alone. Now at last we have succeeded in persuading hoteliers in Britain that it makes sense for them to sell a room during the off-peak season, at a rate equivalent to half that of two people sharing."

About 40 per cent of Saga's clients travel alone. Most of those are women who would prefer their own room.

Until this year even in Britain they had to pay extra for the privilege. A hotel would sell a room for, for example, £50 per person per night if it was being used by two people. If only one person checked in he or she would be charged at least £75 and sometimes as much as £100.

"We were only able to get the breakthrough during the worst of the recession when hotels were desperate to obtain anything for their rooms," said Mr De Haan. "The main travel industry just didn't seem to cater for the single traveller."

There are still problems in persuading hotels in the most popular tourist areas to cut their rates especially during peak times, however, and in America Saga's initiative is regarded with incredulity by most hoteliers who let rooms regardless of the number of people using them.

"Although we may have won a battle in Britain we still have to win the war worldwide," said Mr De Haan. "The message we are determined to get across to the hotel industry is: Don't discriminate against single travellers."

Saga has now launched its series of brochures for the winter and evidence of the growing influence of "grey power" is shown by the addition of many free extras for

Dropping the Single Supplement should reduce your philandering, dear

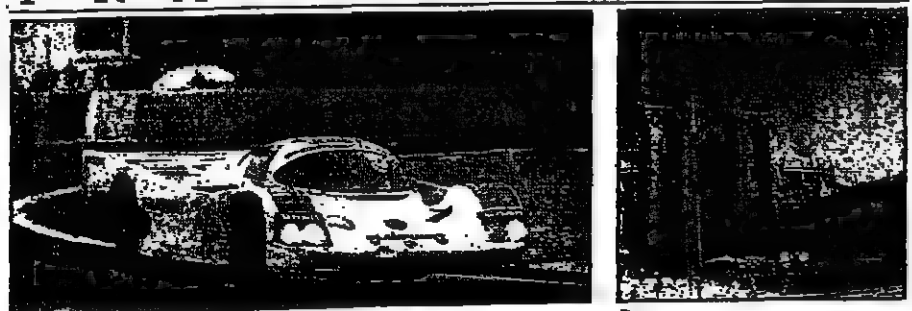


Saga clients in some resorts. For example Saga customers in Egypt are now provided a free three minute phone call home when they take an all inclusive package.

One of the brochures offers special interest holidays, ranging from sky-diving to scuba diving. The most popular pastime demanded by Saga clients is Whist, closely followed by Bridge.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE TIMES TRAVEL OFFER



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Seen and heard

UNSEEN by many delegates, Alan Flook, secretary general of the International Federation of Tour Operators, was briefly at the world conference on sustainable tourism in Lanzarote last week.

He even gave a short speech to introduce an academic from Munich University, who explained how IFTO, whose members send some 40 million people from 17 European countries on holiday each year, was trying to influence destination countries to improve their quality.

Apologies for failing to spot Mr Flook during his brief visit to the week-long conference.

How to help tourism

The traditional British seaside holiday is in "terminal decline" because of the twin foreign threats of guaranteed sunshine and the cheap cost of living, according to a new survey.

Mintel, the marketing organisation, says that Britain's problems were bound to get worse, but another survey suggested that the government could halt the slide immediately by cutting the rate of VAT. Today's report by the British Tourist Authority and Touche Ross claims that 87,000 jobs would be created, foreign exchange earnings increased by £1.2 billion and an additional ten million foreign tourists be attracted yearly. Britain now has the second-highest rate of

A cut in VAT would save seaside holidays

VAT on tourism, after Denmark. Adele Biss, chairman of the BTA says: "If the government cut the VAT rate every-one would be a winner with more jobs, cheaper holidays and a much healthier balance of payments. We need holidays in Britain that are affordable and competitive with our rivals overseas."

BTA's conclusions are borne out by the Mintel survey. A spokesman for Mintel said: "Overseas holidays will always remain popular due mainly to the excitement and

adventure of exploring other countries and the more reliable weather. Taking a holiday abroad is often cheaper than a holiday in the UK."

Mintel claims that hopes for the future of the British holiday industry now rests with the short-break market which is growing as fast as the traditional long break declines. "As consumers return to increased levels of confidence in the economy, the UK short-breaks market should prosper. People will be happy to supplement their overseas holidays with a number of short breaks — a return to the holiday taking pattern of the late 1980s," said Russ Byran of Mintel.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

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Deep midair sleep

It is worth £300 an hour to sleep on an aircraft? On 32 long-haul flights, British Airways' Sleeper Service is designed for first-class air travellers who wish to sleep deeply, rather than doze fitfully, as is generally the fate of those at the more crowded end of the aircraft.

I flew from New York to London on the 10.35pm flight to spend the night with these serious sleepers. The one-way ticket sets you back more than £2,000 — that is £300 for each sleeping hour. But it's a popular service: all the sleeper seats on all three flights out of New York that night were booked.

The evening starts at JFK airport, where an Anton Mosimann-inspired buffet dinner is served in the first-class lounge. This is so that once on board, nothing will distract the tired traveller from his rest. Most of the passengers sit singly at candlelit tables. They are all men. There is not much jollity among these sleep-seekers, no one

makes conversation, business cards are kept in wallets.

Once on board, duvets are dispensed, and nearly all the passengers change self-consciously into dark blue pyjamas ("sleep suits", in BA talk). I haven't worn my pyjamas in front of so many chaps since the dear days of Dormitory Three.

Almost immediately after take-off the lights go out, and the stewardess brings round hot chocolate. I listen for a while to the sleeping passengers and try to read, but before long, with the enormous seats reclining to become a bed, and

DANNY DANZIGER

BA First Class is available on all BA First Class direct flights lasting more than seven hours and less than ten. The return London-New York first class fare is £4,026, not including airport tax.

Host city banishes Olympic doubts Atlanta earns rich reward from the \$1 billion Games

FROM DAVID MILLER IN ATLANTA

THERE will be foul-ups at the centenary Olympic Games here next year — that is inevitable in a billion-pound extravaganza of 271 events in 29 sports — yet everything I have seen over the past few days suggests this will be an Olympics beyond all expectation.

The cloud of Oklahoma's terrorism may hang ominously in the air, but the capacity of this thriving, modern city to run big events, to handle conventions and crowds in vast numbers, together with an infectious southern desire to greet the world hospitably, promises an exceptional two weeks. Critics should run for cover now.

Tickets went on sale this week for July 19 to August 5 next year — 11 million of them, more than Los Angeles, where the Games were held in 1984, and Barcelona, the 1992 host, combined. If the streets of Barcelona were bursting at the seams every night, Atlanta will be suffocating: 22 of the sports are within a ten-minute car drive, or 25-minute walking radius, from the city centre.

Gymnastics and basketball alone will each be watched by 30,000 in separated halves of the vast, indoor Georgia Dome, principally used for American football.

There may not be the late-night Mediterranean languor that made Barcelona exotic, but there will be a throb of expectation seldom before experienced. The United States, and especially the south, is gearing itself, privately and corporately, for the greatest event and recognition in their never mind Olympic history.

The organising committee, at least outwardly, is "unfazed". Atlanta is accustomed to D-day: the massive convention centre, which will house seven sports, is already booked for 2025. There were more than 10,000 telephone calls on the day the ticket-office opened.

The \$1 billion Games budget may have been an anxiety, but A. D. Frazier — short, stocky and disarmingly composed, the man who ran Jimmy Carter's 1987 election

campaign and who is chief operations officer here — said candidly: "The financial risk is less today's topic than the operations risk." The logistics, as for any Games, are frightening; though you would never guess, while observing Frazier as he draws steadily on his cigarette and deals, unflappably, with each day's series of mini-crises.

One of them was worse. A construction worker fell to his death from the roof of the new 85,000-capacity main stadium, which is subsequently to have re-configuration at 50,000 as a gift to Atlanta Braves baseball team. The Georgia community will have the legacy of nearly \$300 million-worth of new facilities, including an exceptional equestrian centre 20 miles out of town.

The death might have halted work on the stadium, only half-built and behind sched-

'There will be a throb of expectation seldom before experienced'

ule, but operational modifications satisfied the unions. The stadium will be ready for test events, an invitation athletics meeting and the United States trials, next May and June. Ironically, late completion saves costs on a year's maintenance, management and security. This will be the first Olympic stadium with sponsors' executive boxes.

More than two thirds of the budget has been raised and the recently-signed \$66 million deal for Japanese television rights has eased the anxiety. Of the remaining \$360 million required, tickets sales may far exceed the projected figure of \$165 million — which, allowing for things like coin-sales, commissions, souvenirs and parking, may leave \$100 million to come from additional sponsorship. Besides the share from the International Olympic Com-

mittee (IOC) exclusive top ten multi-national sponsors, the organising committee already has 29 big national sponsors.

Frazier is sanguine about the terrorist factor. The Olympic Security Support Group, combining federal, state and city police and 35 different national and international agencies, has been busy for four years, co-operating across jurisdiction boundaries.

"Things are no different than for the Pope's visit to Denver," Frazier added. "Oklahoma hasn't changed our plans one whit. We had to be prepared before and we have to be now." Particularly when, he admitted, Olympic access means that "we've got to let people in even if we don't happen to like who they are."

He is optimistic that security arrangements for buildings, officials spectators and competitors, though obvious, will not be intrusive. He is more concerned about transport congestion, even though Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, the city's new rail network, leaves the London Underground's Northern Line in the realm of steam. There are worries over hotels, too. Despite Atlanta's extensive hotel range, some spectators may, as at Barcelona, have a frustrating two-hour journey from out of town.

In central, commercial Atlanta, a concrete jungle, the Games will leave another impact. Billy Payne, the lawyer whose almost evangelical inspiration earned his city the Games — together with the human rights leader, Andrew Young — has helped promote the conversion of a derelict central area of drab streets alongside the Dome into a memorial park. More than 12,000 trees are being planted.

No decision has been made on involvement of Greece in the opening and closing ceremonies, in compensation to Athens, defeated host candidate five years ago. The Greeks are busy pressing the IOC to announce the vote-free award of a future Olympics, during the centenary. I suspect the Greeks are whistling in the wind.



Fifty years on, the Oval gas holder provides part of a familiar backdrop for Keith Miller, a cricketing legend. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Free spirit of golden summer of victory

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

ROLL back the years, if you like, spruce up the long locks with some black polish, even put some vigour back into bowing legs, but just leave the spirit alone. Keith Miller — K.R. Miller — always had plenty to spare and, yesterday, back in town and professing a loss of memory after a long flight, he was soon in full flow, prompted by the sight of an old friend and foe, Denis Compton.

Miller has been persuaded back to England at the age of 75 to be the special guest at a charity match at the Oval on Saturday. It would not be much of a celebration without him because Miller, 50 years ago, made that joyous summer his own just as surely as Compton captured the season of 1948. It was not just the statistics of the series of five Victory Tests — Miller was more bothered about the form of horses than cricketers — it was the style which enthralled a nation just blinking its way

into the sunlight of normality. Here was this tall, athletic, Australian, hardly 25, with a shock of jet black hair which would be swept imperiously back into place from time to time only to cascade back across forehead and face, seemingly able to do what he liked on a cricket field. Score runs with blinding speed, bowl fast from any length of run-up, his sixes at will, catch anything that moved.

"As he was walking back to bowl, he would just turn round when he felt like it," Compton remembered. "Yet he had great balance, a perfect action. He was the greatest fast bowler I've ever seen." Silence. Then a pat on the shoulder. "Keep going, Compo, you were batting well there."

Fifty years on, Miller can still recall the five matches as the best and most enjoyable of his long career. It began to get a little serious after that, he reckoned, and Miller was never one for being serious. Life was there to be lived to the brim, whether batting,

bowling, betting or partying. His one memory of the Victory series surprisingly is not the six which had to be retrieved from a shrapnel hole on top of the commentary box at Lord's — the biggest hit ever seen at the ground, say the sages — nor the other 179 runs from that whirlwind of an innings, but the sight of his team-mate, Graham Williams, going out to bat in the first match against England.



Miller, a young man who played the game for fun

"He had been shot down in the Middle East and been a prisoner of war in Germany for four years. As he went out to bat, there was this lovely, quiet, muffled applause which went round the ground, completely different from any other type of applause I have heard on a ground before or since. He had tears in his eyes and I've remembered the moment to this day."

Miller's talk is refreshingly modern, free of backslash. No need for phrases like "in my day" now that Australia are top dogs again, but as Compton voiced typically trenchant views about the inadequacies of Ray Illingworth, Mike Atherton and the system of selection, Miller was wholeheartedly and, for English ears, depressingly full of praise for young Australian batsmen, Ponting, Slater, Bevan. "They all use their feet so well. Beautiful players, all of them. And, in the West Indies, this boy Lara. There are some fantastic cricketers." Living for the moment, still.

His stories of Don Bradman have a contemporary relevance, too. One came from Bramall Lane on the 1948 tour after some controversy about short-pitched bowling. Bradman had just dispatched two bouncers for four, before wandering down to speak to Miller, his partner. "Hey, Nugget [Miller's nickname], I hope they don't take this bloke off for bowling too many bouncers."

The only regret Miller himself professes is that he never managed to play village cricket. "You drive round the country, see these wonderful grounds. I'd liked to have played some of that sort of cricket. But I've backed a few winners, had a few drinks, scored a few runs, got a few wickets. That's all you can ask for, isn't it?"

□ The Bunbury Victory Cricket Match, an England XI captained by David Gower v The Bunbury All Star XI in aid of the Royal British Legion and the Surrey Youth Trust, starts at 1pm on Saturday May 6.

Dry pitches encouraging counties to turn to spin

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

WITH the warm, dry spell forecast to continue for the second round of Britannic Assurance championship matches, which start today, many counties have taken the precaution of adding an extra spin bowler in case of wear to unusually dry pitches.

Northamptonshire and Glamorgan, who both started with crushing victories, meet at Cardiff with the visitors thinking of giving off-spinner Jeremy Snape his first outing in championship since 1992.

Hugh Morris, who has not played since damaging his back during the game with Oxford University last month, is likely to return to captain a Glamorgan side which has won all four games in his absence. The slow left-arm Neil Kendrick, formerly with Surrey, is also in the 12.

John Childs, the Essex left-arm spinner, could play the first match of his 21st season at Chelmsford as Neil Williams is doubtful because of a hamstring injury. Worcestershire may bring back the fast bowler Alex Wyllie, 22, who has not played a

senior game for two years because of a series of back injuries.

Hampshire, still searching for their first win of the season, call up the slow left-armer, Darren Flint, to partner Shaun Udall at Lord's, where John Emburey and Phil Tufnell, who shared 13 wickets in the defeat by Warwickshire, can expect to be fully employed by Middlesex, who have Richard Johnson available to strengthen the seam attack.

Derbyshire will give a debut to either Andrew Cottam or Tom Harrison, both slow left-armers, at Trent

Bridge with the fast bowler Allan Warner making way. "We expect the pitch to encourage spin at some stage so this will be a good test of our resources," Kim Barnett, the captain, said.

Kent include their new off spinner, Steve Hertzberg, in a squad of 12 for their game against Sussex at Hove. Hertzberg, born in Carlsbad, has played for both Western Australia and Tasmania.

□ Bruce French, 35, the former England wicketkeeper, will retire from first-class cricket at the end

of the season. French, who played in 16 Test matches and 13 one-day internationals, has decided to step down after 20 years in the game to pursue a new career in outdoor education.

He is gaining qualifications as a rock-climbing instructor and mountain leader. "I am and will remain a Nottinghamshire man through and through so I'm not looking for another county club. But I would like to stay in the game as a specialist wicketkeeper coach," said French, who made his debut at the age of 16 in 1976.

English cricket — what future?



IS THERE any hope for English cricket? Are the doom-mongers right to say that England will never be a force in the world until they completely reform their present structure? Join Michael Atherton and Graham Gooch (pictured left), Richie Benaud and Micky Stewart — four men who know more about modern English cricket, than most — for what promises to be a lively evening of discussion and debate in this Times/Dillons forum on Wednesday, May 17.



Chaired by Alan Lee, cricket correspondent of The Times, the panel will look at all aspects of the game, from schools cricket to Test matches. There will be plenty of opportunity for an audience to question and debate with the speakers. A book-signing session will follow the forum.

The event will be held at Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1 at 7.30 pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50) are available by ringing 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-580 7680, or by sending it with your remittance to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E, where tickets can also be purchased.

Please send me ticket(s) at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for the Times/Dillons Cricket Forum, to be held at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1 on Wednesday, May 17, 1995 at 7.30pm.

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J. C. Adams (002)	0	0	0
F. Archer (003)	0	0	0
K. L. T. Atkinson (004)	0	0	0
Neil Duff (005)	0	0	0
M. A. Atherton (006)	176	0	176
C. W. J. Athey (007)	0	0	0
G. A. Bailey (008)	0	0	0
K. J. Barnes (009)	164	0	164
M. R. Bates (010)	56	0	56
N. H. Bell (011)	221	0	221
D. J. Bicknell (012)	87	0	87
T. J. Birt (013)	20	0	20
P. D. Brown (014)	84	0	84
N. E. Bruns (015)	203	0	203
A. D. Brown (016)	400	0	400
S. D. Byles (017)	400	0	400
C. C. Campbell (018)	0	0	0
J. D. Carr (019)	12	0	12
S. Chanderpal (020)	0	0	0
M. J. Church (021)	64	0	64
P. A. Cooty (022)	103	0	103
G. R. Cowdrey (023)	0	0	0
P. J. Cresswell (024)	74	0	74
W. J. Duggan (025)	72	0	72
D. J. Egan (026)	134	0	134
S. G. Fiddes (027)	81	0	81
J. A. Gale (028)	131	0	131
R. I. Garton (029)	51	0	51
P. A. Gilchrist (030)	15	0	15
M. P. Gorman (031)	145	0	145
N. H. Groom (032)	24	0	24
A. Groom (033)	37	0	37
J. E. R. Gurnall (034)	46	0	46
M. W. Gurnall (035)	33	0	33
G. A. Gurnall (036)	70	0	70
G. D. Hadfield (037)	221	0	221
A. P. Grayson (038)	75	0	75
K. Greenhalgh (039)	12	0	12
N. H. Hall (040)	9	0	9
T. H. Hancock (041)	0	0	0
R. J. Harford (042)	25	0	25
A. Hinchey (043)	72	0	72
G. R. Hinchey (044)	26	0	26
G. D. Hodgson (045)	25	0	25
A. J. Hollands (046)	59	0	59
N. H. Hudson (047)	111	0	111
S. Hutton (048)	36	0	36
P. James (049)	132	0	132
P. Johnson (050)	73	0	73
M. Keogh (051)	0	0	0
S. A. Kellert (052)	157	0	157
A. V. Knight (053)	157	0	157
J. Lamb (054)	54	0	54
B. C. Lara (055)	0	0	0
N. L. Law (056)	27	0	27
W. Lawton (057)	79	0	79
D. A. Leathbridge (058)	126	0	126
P. Latham (059)	72	0	72
J. J. B. Lewis (060)	6	0	6
N. J. Long (061)	145	0	145
G. D. Lloyd (062)	145	0	145
J. Longley (063)	48	0	48

M. B. Loye (064)	3	0	3
M. A. Lynch (065)	130	0	130
G. I. Macmillan (066)	138	0	138
G. I. Macmillan (067)	138	0	138
A. A. Metcalfe (068)	0	0	0
T. C. Middleton (069)	0	0	0
J. J. Miles (070)	111	0	111
R. R. Montgomerie (071)	197	0	197
T. M. Moody (072)	0	0	0
N. Morris (073)	129	0	129
J. E. Morris (074)	131	0	131
R. S. Morris (075)	20	0	20
M. C. Moxon (076)	232	0	232
M. C. J. Nicholas (077)	29	0	29
T. J. G. O'Connor (078)	17	0	17
D. P. O'Leary (079)	87	0	87
S. P. O'Leary (080)	0	0	0
T. L. Penney (081)	116	0	116
P. R. Pollard (082)	0	0	0
J. C. Poyser (083)	0	0	0
P. J. Pritchard (084)	79	0	79
M. R. Ramprakash (085)	174	0	174
D. J. Ratcliffe (086)	33	0	33
R. B. Richardson (087)	0	0	0
D. J. Richardson (088)	0	0	0
P. E. Robinson (089)	5	0	5
R. T. Robinson (090)	101	0	101
A. S. Rolfe (091)	32	0	32
C. A. Roseberry (092)	109	0	109
D. J. S. Sales (093)	0	0	0
N. D. Sales (094)	0	0	0
S. D. Sealby (095)	48	0	48
N. Sheehy (096)	17	0	17
A. Singh (097)	0	0	0
B. J. Smith (098)	0	0	0
R. A. Smith (099)	26	0	26
J. J. Speck (100)	124	0	124
M. J. Spinks (101)	0	0	0
A. J. Stanger (102)	67	0	67
A. Symonds (103)	182	0	182
R. J. Taylor (104)	0	0	0
P. J. Terry (105)	60	0	60
G. P. Thorpe (106)	0	0	0
M. P. Threlkeld (107)	0	0	0
M. E. Treaclock (108)	18	0	18
R. T. Twose (109)	148	0	148
M. P. Vaughan (110)	42	0	42
M. J. Waller (111)	47	0	47
D. M. Ward (112)	0	0	0
R. J. Ward (113)	0	0	0
R. J. Warren (114)	0	0	0
M. P. Waseley (115)	0	0	0
A. R. Wells (116)	0	0	0
W. P. C. Weston (117)	100	0	100
G. W. White (118)	32	0	32
J. J. Whiteley (119)	82	0	82
P. R. Whitaker (120)	0	0	0
S. C. Williams (121)	0	0	0
M. G. R. Windsor (122)	27	0	27
A. J. Wright (123)	0	0	0

All-rounders (124-165)			
M. W. Alleyne (124)	32	1	112
D. Austin (125)	84	2	104
P. Barbridge (126)	0	0	0
M. A. Boucher (127)	122	0	122
C. L. Cairns (128)	110	3	170
D. G. Cook (129)	93	10	283
D. G. Cook (130)	21	2	81
K. M. Curran (131)	11	31	51

team			
£250			
REYNOLDS, from the first weekly prize of £250 in our Fantasy XI game. Because of a late rush of entries, we are unable to run our list of the top 100 readers' teams until next week.			
Wicketkeepers (166-185)			
A. N. Aynnes (166)	3	3	63
R. J. Bailey (167)	100	0	100
G. Keedy (168)	0	0	0
M. A. Garmham (169)	0	0	0
W. K. Hagg (170)	113	0	113
G. J. Kersley (171)	0	0	0
K. M. Kirtland (172)	0	0	0
S. A. Marks (173)	60	0	60
C. P. Pearson (174)	0	0	0
P. J. Pritchard (175)	0	0	0
J. R. Murray (176)	0	0	0
P. A. Nixon (177)	51	0	51
W. H. Noon (178)	0	0	0
K. J. Pople (179)	8	0	8
R. J. Rhodes (180)	0	0	0
D. J. Staley (181)	0	0	0
R. C. Russell (182)	57	0	57
N. F. Sergeant (183)	0	0	0
C. W. Scott (184)	0	0	0
J. Turner (185)	0	0	0
Bowlers (1)			
J. A. Allard (186)	0	0	0
M. Atwood (187)	0	0	0
C. E. L. Andrews (188)	0	0	0
S. J. W. Andrews (189)	0	0	0
R. J. B. Bailey (190)	0	0	0
A. A. Barnett (191)	0	0	0
S. R. Barnwell (192)	0	0	0
R. J. B. Best (193)	0	0	0
J. D. Bury (194)	0	0	0
E. E. Benjamin (195)	0	0	0
K. C. G. G. (196)	0	0	0
W. K. M. Benjamin (197)	0	0	0
M. P. Bicknell (198)	0	0	0
B. S. B. (199)	0	0	0
J. B. B. B. (200)	0	0	0
E. J. B. B. (201)	0	0	0
M. P. B. B. (202)	0	0	0
A. S. B. B. (203)	0	0	0
R. J. B. B. (204)	0	0	0
C. P. B. B. (205)	0	0	0
K. C. P. B. (206)	0	0	0
M. D. C. B. (207)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (208)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (209)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (210)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (211)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (212)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (213)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (214)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (215)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (216)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (217)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (218)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (219)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (220)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (221)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (222)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (223)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (224)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (225)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (226)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (227)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (228)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (229)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (230)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (231)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (232)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (233)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (234)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (235)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (236)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (237)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (238)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (239)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (240)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (241)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (242)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (243)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (244)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (245)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (246)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (247)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (248)	0	0	0
D. M. C. (249)	0	0	0
R. P. D. C. (250)	0	0	0

Leader of men prepares to hand over the torch

"WHEN John Hall and Tony Swift retire, look at the average age of the side, it'll be around 23," Gareth Chilcott said gleefully.

No sentiment there from their former colleague for two of the longest-serving members of the Bath team that will play Wasps in the Pilkington Cup final at Twickenham on Saturday.

Two players for whom Bath Football Club has meant everything for a decade or more — even beyond the international caps that both players have won.

Sentiment, though, is not part of the Bath make-up. "One of the most difficult decisions I have had to make," Hall, the Bath captain, said of the omission from the cup final team this week of Graham Dawe, with whom he has played for 11 seasons.

Always looking ahead, always what is best for the collective rather than the individual: it is this professional, business-like approach that has made Bath admired and respected for more than a decade.

Hall has been part of that approach since 1981, when he graduated to the club's senior side at the age of 18: burly, surly, sometimes overly aggressive, but with a resilience and ball-handling skills that made him — in English terms anyway — nearly ten years ahead of his time.



David Hands talks to John Hall before his farewell appearance for Bath in the Pilkington Cup final

Jack Rowell, Hall's coach at Bath until last year, when he took over as England manager, does not pay tribute easily to individuals, but he describes the flanker as one of the players of all time in English rugby history.

"Anyone who knows the game understands implicitly that John has been a world-class player over a long period," Rowell said.

Hall has been one of the core players at Bath over the past decade, perhaps the last of the original group that also comprised Chilcott, Stuart Barnes, Simon Halliday and Richard Hill. A disparate group, all with the characteristic of original and independent thought.

There is another similarity. None, save Hall, received the number of England caps that they should have done, partly through injury and partly through a certain uncomfortable presence that they offered, never more so than during the mid-1980s.

"Never mind England, we're Bath," they seemed to say, because they were successful and the national side was not. The individuals and the club have matured since

then, none more so than Hall, but his primary concern now is that the torch is handed down to a new generation.

Already he sees Phil de Glanville and Ben Clarke as the new hard core, demonstrating the commitment to the club above personal ambition that has been such a feature over recent years.

"You have to want the side to do well, there has to be an unselfish attitude," Hall said. It was this attitude that allowed Bath to get up from the rack of a 13-0 deficit against Wasps in the 1986 final and grind out their third successive cup victory.

He finds it hard to compare the quality of the many fine club sides in which he has played. "I knew a turning point was coming in the club's fortunes as far back as the 1982-83 season," he said.

"During the mid-1980s, we had a particularly good side, but I would say that the 1993-94 side was the best because the standards of the other sides had improved. There wasn't a weakness, and that was without Jerry Guscott." That side achieved the league and cup double, as did their forbears of 1989.

Yet ask Hall what he will miss as he trudges off into retirement and it is "the routine, meeting the boys on the Friday before, an away game, the coach journey, the cards, the chat. Some of the players get terrific stick and they have to learn how to take it and dish it out, it's part of the character-building."

He believes that he was worth more than his 21 international caps, but, above all, he seeks to be remembered for the positive qualities that he brought to the rugby field, for the athletic skills at lineout and loose play, for the ball-winning qualities at ruck and maul that have been the bane of opponents' lives.

What of the future for Hall, an independent financial adviser? Manager, coach, club spokesman, all are possibilities. "If they want me, I'm here," he said.

"There are a lot of issues within the game that need to be addressed, of which the most important is compensation. Most players want to make some money out of the game, but they would feel happier if it was done with the governing body's consent."

"Anyone who thinks a wealthy commercial concern may not come knocking at the door offering players a lot of money is being naive." Few believe that Bath in general, or Hall in particular, has been guilty on that score.



Hall, of Bath and England, has been at the heart of his club's unparalleled success over the past decade

SPORTS LETTERS

Junior cricket keeps alive

From the Headmaster of Habersham High School

Sir, Following your report and editorial (April 29) on the condition of school cricket, I can assure you that, at this state school, the game is alive and well.

In addition to our fixtures against local state schools, we also run three sides — under-13, under-15 and first XI (school form) — in matches against seven cricket-playing independent schools in the North West. In their first match last week, our first XI had the better of a drawn game against one independent school: Habersham 113 for five; our opponents 60 for eight. Three years ago, our first XI captain was also captain of the England Under-17 side.

Sadly, however, we did not attend the MCC meeting at Lord's last week because we were not invited. Had we been invited, we should certainly have been represented.

Yours sincerely, DAVID CLAYTON, Headmaster, Habersham High School, Kildrow Lane, Burnley, Lancashire.

Golf hazards in Rangoon

From Mr J.P. B. Ross

Sir, Mr Richard Godfrey's games of golf in Botswana (Sports Letters, April 14) were, evidently, a piece of cake compared with the game in Rangoon in the early Fifties.

Our so-called fairway was a moderately wide stretch of coarse tropical grass kept throughout at about one inch high. The greens were close shaven at around one centimetre. Bunkers were of sieved earth, mixed with a modicum of far-from-fine sand, while the rough was nature's own unclaimed and varying dense jungle.

In addition, the fairway was wont to produce supplementary hazards, such as the footprints of animals, great and small, and their droppings, a distracting encounter with which gave no free drop under local rules. In the monsoon season, moreover, the possibility of total inundation, without warning and in a few minutes, was ever imminent.

When one came to the clubhouse (a courtesy title) for the first time, one was allotted a caddy, a local boy, barefooted and bare-bodied save for a pair of shorts. This child (average age 12) would invite one to perform a practice drive, while he watched quizzically, but with an undoubtedly experienced eye.

This done, the caddy would hand one the club suited to the length of the hole, while he shouldered one's bag, taking in his hand one's eight or nine-iron. He would then proceed down the course and station himself a short, medium or flatteringly long way in front of the tee, standing near the left-hand or right-hand rough, from where he would beckon one to drive off.

When asked to explain his apparently whimsical routine, the caddy would reveal that, his trained eye was able to assess one's likely length of shot, together with any tendency to hook, pull or slice. Using this judgment, he went on to say that he would place himself as far down the course as he estimated one would drive, and there waited, armed with the heavy iron, so that if one's shot did go into the rough, he could immediately follow it into the jungle. Beating the undergrowth, he would make sure of "frightening away the cobras" that lurked plentifully in the jungle thickets. Thus was one enabled to play one's next shot.

This had a wonderfully sobering influence on one's propensity to zig-zag the course from rough to rough, though very rarely indeed did a caddy fail to find a waywardly struck ball.

Yours truly, J.P. B. ROSS, La Ferrière-de-Flée, 49500 Segre, France.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

To the shareholders of CN Great Nordic Ltd.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held on Tuesday May 16, 1995 at 3.30 pm at Industriens Hus, H.C. Andersens Boulevard 18, DK-1595 Copenhagen V.

The Agenda is as follows:

- a) report on the Company's activities
- b) presentation of the annual financial statements for approval; discharging the Board of Directors and the Executive Management from their obligations
- c) resolution for the distribution of the net profit for the year, including the declaration of a dividend on Company shares
- d) proposals for changes to subarticle 3 of Article 2, subarticle 1 of Article 10, subarticle 2 of Article 13, subarticle 1 of Article 15 and Article 21 of the Company's Articles of Association
- e) Board resolution to transfer DKK 269,263,000 from the Company's share premium fund to free reserves (other reserves)
- f) resolution that the Board be entitled to acquire up to 10 per cent of own shares
- g) election of Board members
- h) appointment of two auditors for the current financial year.

For the resolutions set out under items d and e of the agenda to be passed, Article 18 of the Articles of Association requires that at least one quarter of the Company's share capital is represented at the Annual General Meeting and that the resolutions be approved by not less than two thirds of the votes cast and two thirds of the voting share capital represented at the Annual General Meeting. In the event that the required percentage of the share capital is not represented, but where the resolution has been approved by the above-mentioned qualified majority of votes, the resolution may, however, be passed at a new general meeting convened for this express purpose by the said qualified majority, irrespective of the percentage of the voting share capital represented at the General Meeting.

From Monday May 8, 1995 the agenda and the full and complete resolutions to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting, as well as the financial statements, the Auditors' Report and the Report of Directors, will be available for shareholders' inspection at the Company's registered office on the third floor of Kongens Nytorv 26, 1016 Copenhagen K, and at the Company's bankers in London and Paris, Not later than eight days prior to the Annual General Meeting, the above material will also be posted to the registered address of every shareholder on the Company register.

Admission cards to the Annual General Meeting will be available on request from the Company's office from Monday to Friday between 10 am and 4 pm, up to five days prior to the Annual General Meeting, to any shareholder who can prove a good title to his shares. As far as bearer shares are concerned, the shareholder shall prove his title to such shares by presenting a statement issued by the bank in which his shares are held, of his holding of Company shares as of May 4, 1995.

Any right to vote shall be conditional upon the voting share being registered in the name of the shareholder and upon the shareholder being entitled to the meeting pursuant to the above-mentioned provisions. Where the shareholder has acquired the share by way of transfer, the share shall furthermore have been registered in the name of the shareholder for not less than three months prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Copenhagen, May 1, 1995

The Board of Directors.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Christophers A.V. Nielsen

Wouldst best of late of Christopher Nielsen, late of 12 Oldfield Avenue, Southdown Road, Southdown, Kent, SE25 6JH, who died on 19 April 1995, on 12th May 1995 at 11.00 AM, I, the undersigned, being a creditor of his estate, hereby give notice that the creditors of his estate are to present their claims to me at my office, 12 Oldfield Avenue, Southdown, Kent, SE25 6JH, on or before 12th May 1995 at 4.00 PM. A full list of names and addresses of the creditors of his estate can be inspected at the office of the undersigned, 12 Oldfield Avenue, Southdown, Kent, SE25 6JH, between the hours of 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM on the two business days preceding the date of the creditors' meeting, DATED 28th April 1995. G. B. G. G. G.

LEGAL NOTICES

De Bruin Design Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 86 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the office of Leonard Curtis & Co., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, 2nd Floor, London W2 2BU, on 17th May 1995 at 10.00 AM for the purpose of appointing a liquidator of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the office of Leonard Curtis & Co., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, 2nd Floor, London W2 2BU, between the hours of 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM on the two business days preceding the date of the creditors' meeting, DATED 28th April 1995. G. B. G. G. G.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Priorityville Plc (in Administration)

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LEGAL NOTICES

THE SPRINGS HOTEL (WALLINGFORD) LIMITED

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FINANCIAL NOTICES

UNILEVER N.V.

DIVIDEND ON DUTCH CERTIFICATES OF FL1,000, FL100, FL20 and FL4 FOR ORDINARY CAPITAL ISSUED BY N.V. NEDERLANDSCH ADMINISTRATIE-EN TRUSTKANTOOR

Final dividend payments of FL4.71 per FL4 ordinary capital in respect of the year 1994 will be made on or after 19th May 1995 against surrender of Coupon No. 16. Coupons may be encashed through one of the paying agents in the Netherlands or through Midland Securities Services ("Midland") at the address below; in the latter case they must be listed on the special form, obtainable from the Bank, which contains a declaration that the certificates do not belong to a Netherlands resident.

DUTCH DIVIDEND TAX relief is given by certain Tax Conventions concluded by the Netherlands. A resident of a convention country will, generally, be liable to Dutch dividend tax at only 15% provided the appropriate Dutch exemption form is submitted. No form is required from UK residents holding "K" certificates if the dividends are claimed from Midland within six months from the above date. If the certificates are owned by a UK resident from the above date, they must be listed on the special form, obtainable from the Bank, which contains a declaration that the certificates do not belong to a Netherlands resident. 25% will be deducted and will be allowed as credit against Dutch tax payable on the profits of the establishment. Dutch dividend tax on this dividend is FL1,1775 at 25% and FL0.7085 at 15%. The proceeds from the encashment of coupons through a paying agent in the Netherlands will be credited to a convertible florins account with a bank or broker in the Netherlands.

UK INCOME TAX at the reduced rate of 5% on the gross amount will be deducted from payments made to UK residents instead of at the lower rate of 20%. This represents a provisional allowance of credit at the rate of 15% for the Dutch dividend tax already withheld. No UK income tax will be deducted from payments to non-UK residents who submit an Inland Revenue Affidavit of non-residence in the UK.

A statement of the procedure for claiming relief from Dutch dividend tax and for the encashment of coupons, including names of paying agents and convention countries, can be obtained from Midland at the address below.

N.V. NEDERLANDSCH ADMINISTRATIE-EN TRUSTKANTOOR, London Transfer Office, Midland Securities Services, Client Delivery, Midland Bank PLC, Mariner House, Pepys Street, London EC3N 4DA, 3rd May 1995.

LEGAL NOTICES

CASE NO. 94C 0140

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

LEADS DISTRICT REGISTRY

BETWEEN

THE COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS & EXCISE

Plaintiff

Defendant

THE DUTY ENVOY

Time of 30 days from the date of the writ.

THE DUTY ENVOY

Time of 30 days from the date of the writ.

THE DUTY ENVOY

Time of 30 days from the date of the writ.

THE DUTY ENVOY

Time of 30 days from the date of the writ.

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THE DUTY ENVOY

Time of 30 days from the date of the writ.

THE DUTY ENVOY

Time of 30 days from the date of the writ.

LEGAL NOTICES

REVERTER OF MILES ACT

EXTENSION OF RIGHTS

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THE TIMES
Your chance to win the
new £16,000 MGF

The Times offers readers the chance to win the new MGF. Simply collect six of the tokens appearing every day over four weeks to enter our prize draw.

You may enter as many times as you wish, but must use the official application form, which will be printed each Saturday in Car 95. Each entry must be accompanied by six tokens. The competition closes on May 27.



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Celtic Swing gives painful reminder of wellbeing

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

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dam, which is
the first of a
series of dams
to be built in
the region. The
dam is expected
to be completed
in 1997.

THE Angering stables of Lady Anne Herries, home of Celtic Swing, kicked into gear in spectacular style yesterday but not everybody at the picturesque Sussex yard was leaping for joy last night.

While Jawaal produced a telling turn of foot inside the final furlong to win the 25-runner Inskip Victoria Cup at Ascot, the 62-year-old lad who looks after Celtic Swing was hobnobbing around in considerable

style, having been hit on the knee by the odds-on favourite for the Madagars 2,000 Guineas.

Bob Mason was taken to hospital after Celtic Swing lashed out while being washed down yesterday morning after a canter and walk through the woods. "Bob went to hospital for an X-ray but he is all right. Celtic Swing has done it before but has never caught Bob," Lady Herries reported.

Celtic Swing, a best priced 11-8 on with William Hill, will probably have a blow-out over four furlongs today in preparation for the colts' classic on Saturday and Lady Anne was as relaxed as any trainer could be as the sunshine beamed down on Newmarket's Rowley Mile and threatened to produce firmish ground.

"It was fast ground when Celtic Swing won here at Ascot. Apart from running down into the Dip at Newmarket, where I would not want it to be too firm, he should be all right as they come home uphill. I don't think anyone wants firm ground. We had someone walk the course yesterday and it was good ground. As long as it is fair for everybody, that is the main

thing," she said after Jawaal's neck victory over Lord Huntingdon's Royal Hill.

The seven-furlong trip posed by the Victoria Cup was arguably on the sharp side for Jawaal, whose two victories last year, at Newmarket and Ascot, came over a mile.

However, with a strong pace guaranteed in such a big field,

John Reid always had the five-year-old handy before striking the front inside the distance. "The ground was firm enough for him; he wouldn't want it any firmer. The Royal Hunt Cup is a definite possibility now," the trainer said.

On the Colnes front, Corals yesterday extended Diffident to 7-1 while shortening Pennepack to an each-way "thieves' bet" only a few days ago, to 3-1. "We have been the biggest price about Diffident but still cannot lay him. We are trying to get the public to decide on anything apart from the front two," Rob Hartnett, the Corals spokesman, said.

John Dumble went to Ascot yesterday hoping to hear from Willie Carson whether he would ride Aqaarid - or the Dick Hern-trained Harayir - in the Madagars 1,000 Guineas on Sunday. However, the diminutive Scottish-born jockey is leaving his decision until the last possible moment and, by all accounts, is taking it as one of the toughest choices in a long and distinguished career.

On the one hand, he knows that Harayir probably boasts the best public form, and theoretically, has a few pounds in hand on Dumble's filly. But he is the

first to sing the praises of Aqaarid's racing style and believes there is far better to come from the daughter of Nashwan.

Mark Johnston has been forced to endure a miserable start to this season, because of coughing affecting most of his Middleham string. However, the head every reason to believe the worst may be over after Double Trigger fought back gamely to land the Inskip Sagaro Stakes and Unconditional Love, who booked her place for the Queen Mary Stakes, burst clear to win the Garter Conditions Stakes by a long-looking four lengths.

"It's nice for it to come right when it counts. It is another example which shows we are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel," Johnston said.



Double Trigger, white blaze, gamely fends off the challenge of Polart in the Sagaro Stakes at Ascot yesterday

THUNDERER
2.00 Artificial Dane 4.00 Hujab
2.30 Soaking 4.30 PPECIDE (nap)
3.00 Star Talent 5.00 Anley
3.30 Mr Browning 5.30 Mighty Squaw

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 Kaywanan.

103 (12) 0-4322 0000 TIMES 74 (20.0/2.5) (M) 2-10-4... 3 West (4) 88

Racecard news: In trouble, Sir-glass... course and distance winner. (F) - broken... course and distance winner. (F) - broken... course and distance winner. (F) - broken...

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 MORRISTON MAIDEN STAKES
(Div 1: 3-Y-O; £4,078; 1m) (12 runners)
1 (1) 10-1 ANCHOR (J) 2-10-10... 2 (2) 10-1 ANCHOR (J) 2-10-10... 3 (3) 10-1 ANCHOR (J) 2-10-10... 4 (4) 10-1 ANCHOR (J) 2-10-10... 5 (5) 10-1 ANCHOR (J) 2-10-10... 6 (6) 10-1 ANCHOR (J) 2-10-10... 7 (7) 10-1 ANCHOR (J) 2-10-10... 8 (8) 10-1 ANCHOR (J) 2-10-10... 9 (9) 10-1 ANCHOR (J) 2-10-10... 10 (10) 10-1 ANCHOR (J) 2-10-10... 11 (11) 10-1 ANCHOR (J) 2-10-10... 12 (12) 10-1 ANCHOR (J) 2-10-10...

BETTING: 5-2 Best of 5, 2-10-10... 1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

FORM FOCUS
MISTY SLUGS last night... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10...

1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

2.30 ALMOND APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(£2,388; 6f 212y) (20 runners)
1 (1) 10-10-10... 2 (2) 10-10-10... 3 (3) 10-10-10... 4 (4) 10-10-10... 5 (5) 10-10-10... 6 (6) 10-10-10... 7 (7) 10-10-10... 8 (8) 10-10-10... 9 (9) 10-10-10... 10 (10) 10-10-10... 11 (11) 10-10-10... 12 (12) 10-10-10... 13 (13) 10-10-10... 14 (14) 10-10-10... 15 (15) 10-10-10... 16 (16) 10-10-10... 17 (17) 10-10-10... 18 (18) 10-10-10... 19 (19) 10-10-10... 20 (20) 10-10-10...

BETTING: 5-10-10... 1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

FORM FOCUS
MISTY SLUGS last night... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10...

1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

3.00 CHEVIOT CONDITIONS STAKES
(£5,141; 6f) (9 runners)
1 (1) 10-10-10... 2 (2) 10-10-10... 3 (3) 10-10-10... 4 (4) 10-10-10... 5 (5) 10-10-10... 6 (6) 10-10-10... 7 (7) 10-10-10... 8 (8) 10-10-10... 9 (9) 10-10-10...

BETTING: 5-10-10... 1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

FORM FOCUS
MISTY SLUGS last night... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10...

1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

3.30 GRAMPIAN HANDICAP
(£3,470; 1m 40) (19 runners)
1 (1) 10-10-10... 2 (2) 10-10-10... 3 (3) 10-10-10... 4 (4) 10-10-10... 5 (5) 10-10-10... 6 (6) 10-10-10... 7 (7) 10-10-10... 8 (8) 10-10-10... 9 (9) 10-10-10... 10 (10) 10-10-10... 11 (11) 10-10-10... 12 (12) 10-10-10... 13 (13) 10-10-10... 14 (14) 10-10-10... 15 (15) 10-10-10... 16 (16) 10-10-10... 17 (17) 10-10-10... 18 (18) 10-10-10... 19 (19) 10-10-10...

BETTING: 5-10-10... 1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

FORM FOCUS
MISTY SLUGS last night... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10...

1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

4.00 LAIRD DALE FILLS HANDICAP
(£4,013; 1m) (11 runners)
1 (1) 10-10-10... 2 (2) 10-10-10... 3 (3) 10-10-10... 4 (4) 10-10-10... 5 (5) 10-10-10... 6 (6) 10-10-10... 7 (7) 10-10-10... 8 (8) 10-10-10... 9 (9) 10-10-10... 10 (10) 10-10-10... 11 (11) 10-10-10...

BETTING: 5-10-10... 1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

FORM FOCUS
MISTY SLUGS last night... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10...

1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

4.30 PERTLAND CONDITIONS STAKES
(£4,367; 1m 10y) (5 runners)
1 (1) 10-10-10... 2 (2) 10-10-10... 3 (3) 10-10-10... 4 (4) 10-10-10... 5 (5) 10-10-10...

BETTING: 5-10-10... 1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

FORM FOCUS
MISTY SLUGS last night... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10...

1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

5.00 SUTHERLAND HANDICAP
(£3,628; 6f) (18 runners)
1 (1) 10-10-10... 2 (2) 10-10-10... 3 (3) 10-10-10... 4 (4) 10-10-10... 5 (5) 10-10-10... 6 (6) 10-10-10... 7 (7) 10-10-10... 8 (8) 10-10-10... 9 (9) 10-10-10... 10 (10) 10-10-10... 11 (11) 10-10-10... 12 (12) 10-10-10... 13 (13) 10-10-10... 14 (14) 10-10-10... 15 (15) 10-10-10... 16 (16) 10-10-10... 17 (17) 10-10-10... 18 (18) 10-10-10...

BETTING: 5-10-10... 1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

FORM FOCUS
MISTY SLUGS last night... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10...

1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

5.30 MORRISTON MAIDEN STAKES
(Div 1: 3-Y-O; £4,045; 1m) (11 runners)
1 (1) 10-10-10... 2 (2) 10-10-10... 3 (3) 10-10-10... 4 (4) 10-10-10... 5 (5) 10-10-10... 6 (6) 10-10-10... 7 (7) 10-10-10... 8 (8) 10-10-10... 9 (9) 10-10-10... 10 (10) 10-10-10... 11 (11) 10-10-10...

BETTING: 5-10-10... 1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

ASCOT
Going: good to firm
2.20 Lord of a Dance, 2.50 Cheldon Haring, 3.20 Marowins, 3.50 Plum First, 4.20 Maltia, 4.50 Fyreway Marwies, 5.20 Move With Edes.

Private Handicapper's top ratings: 3.20 MAROWINS. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.20 CRIMSON AND CLOVER (nap), 4.50 Snow Dream.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.20 EAGLESHAM LIMITED STAKES
(£3,205; 1m 11y) (18 runners)
1 (1) 10-10-10... 2 (2) 10-10-10... 3 (3) 10-10-10... 4 (4) 10-10-10... 5 (5) 10-10-10... 6 (6) 10-10-10... 7 (7) 10-10-10... 8 (8) 10-10-10... 9 (9) 10-10-10... 10 (10) 10-10-10... 11 (11) 10-10-10... 12 (12) 10-10-10... 13 (13) 10-10-10... 14 (14) 10-10-10... 15 (15) 10-10-10... 16 (16) 10-10-10... 17 (17) 10-10-10... 18 (18) 10-10-10...

BETTING: 5-10-10... 1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

FORM FOCUS
MISTY SLUGS last night... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10...

1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

4.00 LAIRD DALE FILLS HANDICAP
(£4,013; 1m) (11 runners)
1 (1) 10-10-10... 2 (2) 10-10-10... 3 (3) 10-10-10... 4 (4) 10-10-10... 5 (5) 10-10-10... 6 (6) 10-10-10... 7 (7) 10-10-10... 8 (8) 10-10-10... 9 (9) 10-10-10... 10 (10) 10-10-10... 11 (11) 10-10-10...

BETTING: 5-10-10... 1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

FORM FOCUS
MISTY SLUGS last night... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10...

1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

4.30 PERTLAND CONDITIONS STAKES
(£4,367; 1m 10y) (5 runners)
1 (1) 10-10-10... 2 (2) 10-10-10... 3 (3) 10-10-10... 4 (4) 10-10-10... 5 (5) 10-10-10...

BETTING: 5-10-10... 1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

FORM FOCUS
MISTY SLUGS last night... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10...

1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

5.00 SUTHERLAND HANDICAP
(£3,628; 6f) (18 runners)
1 (1) 10-10-10... 2 (2) 10-10-10... 3 (3) 10-10-10... 4 (4) 10-10-10... 5 (5) 10-10-10... 6 (6) 10-10-10... 7 (7) 10-10-10... 8 (8) 10-10-10... 9 (9) 10-10-10... 10 (10) 10-10-10... 11 (11) 10-10-10... 12 (12) 10-10-10... 13 (13) 10-10-10... 14 (14) 10-10-10... 15 (15) 10-10-10... 16 (16) 10-10-10... 17 (17) 10-10-10... 18 (18) 10-10-10...

BETTING: 5-10-10... 1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

FORM FOCUS
MISTY SLUGS last night... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10...

1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

5.30 MORRISTON MAIDEN STAKES
(Div 1: 3-Y-O; £4,045; 1m) (11 runners)
1 (1) 10-10-10... 2 (2) 10-10-10... 3 (3) 10-10-10... 4 (4) 10-10-10... 5 (5) 10-10-10... 6 (6) 10-10-10... 7 (7) 10-10-10... 8 (8) 10-10-10... 9 (9) 10-10-10... 10 (10) 10-10-10... 11 (11) 10-10-10...

BETTING: 5-10-10... 1994: WILLIAM TELL 5-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10... 1-10-10...

FORM FOCUS
MISTY SLUGS last night... 10-10-10... 10-10-10... 10-10-10...

Home is where the 'country style' clutter is

To my mind there can be no doubt about the two most frightening words in the English language—stripped pine. I was not, therefore, looking forward last night to *Home Front* (BBC2) and its exploration of "country style" which, it claimed, "has more fans than any other decorative style". Not in our house, it hasn't.

Call me anal retentive (but I'd prefer it if you didn't) but the sight of dollies and dried flowers, curio and copper, just makes me want to have a good tidy up. Which is a shame, because normally I like *Home Front*. Presented by the slightly dippy but thoroughly decent Tessa Shaw, it is gentle, therapeutic television, a colour supplement that doesn't even ask you to lift your arms to read it.

Hard hitting it is not. "I'm not being rude," said Shaw, a woman for whom incivility is a physical impossibility: "but your house is

rather cluttered. Is that a deliberate look?" Her host, a woman for whom incivility looked not only possible but likely, visibly bristled—no easy feat when surrounded by dried teasels. She muttered something about the decorative country look rather than the natural country look and communicating "the ambience of country". One up to Tessa.

But it was a token victory. Shaw was soon happily burbling on about the timelessness of country style. "We could be any time," just as long as Habitat and Laura Ashley are near by.

Things did look up a little when she visited a couple who lived, I think, in Somerset (basically, everyone in this programme either lived in Somerset or thought they did). "I remember the first time we did it," said the lady of yet another house in need of a good clear-out. "My heart was absolutely pounding and I was shaking with

excitement." A spark of metropolitan interest flickered—so Jilly Cooper was right about the West Country after all. Sadly not, it turned out. What gets them going down Tassanov way is a good furniture auction. Followed by some vigorous dipping, I expect.

But the really terrifying moment came during the section on quilts. As a selection of quilts old and new were spread before us, the dread words formed on my lips. "Ooh—this is nice." And not just once, but three times I'll be pre-distressed flower pots and skirts round the telephone table next. I can't bear it.

In fairness, this incipient mid-life crisis probably owed its origin to the programme that preceded *Home Front*, *Seven Wonders of the World* (BBC2), which came to a marvellous and inspiring conclusion by inviting Jonathan Maynard Smith to select his own wonders.

For those of you who didn't know, Sue Lawley introduced him as "one of Britain's most brilliant scientists". Indeed he is. Maynard Smith is a biologist. But, far more importantly, he is that oxymoron of the scientific world—a numerate biologist. And I mean seriously numerate.

One of his books, I confess, lies in my attic. Its presence haunts me. Now and again, I think about

calculating the turning forces required to lever open the trap door to retrieve it but then I quickly realise that I still don't know my arcs from my elbow and give up. One day perhaps.

In short, Maynard Smith has gone before and where even fewer can follow. The producers allowed us only the briefest glimpse of the equations that have struck terror into the heart of anyone who took up biology because they liked plants and animals. But his enthusiasm for science and the scientific process was a joy to behold, coming as it did some 70 years after he was dubbed Professor Meat-Juice at prep school.

Meat Juice, I mean Maynard Smith, was modest about his own talents. He decided to do biology, he said, because physics was too difficult. As someone who gave up biology because Maynard Smith

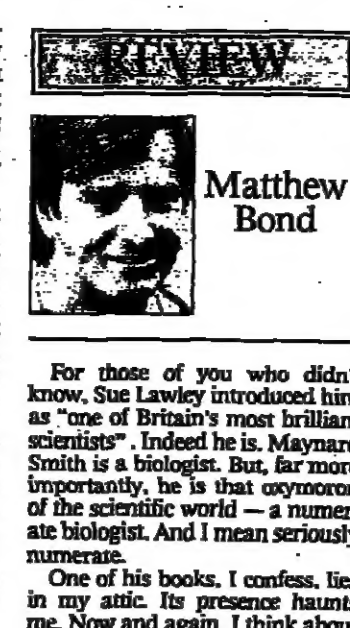
was too difficult, I sympathised. Physics still fascinates Maynard Smith and the subject played a major role in his seven wonders. How side-winding snakes move, how albatrosses fly and how the extraordinary Tippe top always ends up spinning on its tip. Could he explain these things without the maths? He doubted it. "Mathematics makes things clear, while words merely muddle, confuse and mess up."

Well, that just leaves me to muddle along with a few more and no doubt we'll all end up as confused as the British legal system appears to be. Last night both BBC1 and Channel 4 attempted to put right perceived wrongs, with *Rough Justice* and a *Dispatches* investigation into alleged war crimes during the Bangladesh war.

Death in the Playground (BBC1) did *Rough Justice*'s nor-

mal thorough job and suggested there is ample reason for reopening the case against Paul Esslemont, the teenager convicted of murdering three-year-old Carl Kennedy. However, given the key testimony of the trial juror, it did sound as if we needed to hear a little more of the judge's summing-up and perhaps a little less of the sickening forensic evidence.

As for *Dispatches* (Channel 4), it came close to being a kangaroo documentary with an investigation that was powerful, horrifying but unbalanced. If the producers are right about the three men who now live in Britain but who, the programme alleged, collaborated with the Pakistani Army in 1971 to murder, rape and torture their opponents in the then East Pakistan, they have nothing to worry about and deserve congratulations. If they are wrong, both they and Channel 4 will have some very serious explaining to do.



Matthew Bond

For those of you who didn't know, Sue Lawley introduced him as "one of Britain's most brilliant scientists". Indeed he is. Maynard Smith is a biologist. But, far more importantly, he is that oxymoron of the scientific world—a numerate biologist. And I mean seriously numerate.

One of his books, I confess, lies in my attic. Its presence haunts me. Now and again, I think about

- BBC1**
- 6.00 Business Breakfast (61064)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (10127013)
 - 9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (1426239)
 - 10.00 News. (Ceefax) regional news and weather (7308346) 10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days (i). (Ceefax) (155278)
 - 10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series (s) (4245742)
 - 12.00 News. (Ceefax) and weather (9016810) 12.05 Pebble Mill. Gloria Hunniford introduces the Syd Lawrence Orchestra, the Beverley Sisters and Jimmy Perry and David Croft (s) (5104907) 12.50 Regional News and weather (15531162)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) and weather (42810) 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (20301128)
 - 1.50 Going for Gold. Henry Kelly with another round of the general knowledge quiz with European contestants (s) (26701164)
 - 2.15 FILM: Quest For Love (1971) starring Tom Bell, Joan Collins and Denholm Elliott. A science-fiction drama, based on a novel by John Wyndham, about a scientist who accidentally releases into another dimension on Earth and falls in love. Directed by Ralph Thomas (586452)
 - 3.50 Pingu. A new series of the animated adventures of a clumsy penguin (329394) 3.55 Why Did the Chicken? Quiz show presented by Mark Evans (s) (5364013) 4.10 Speed Racer. (Ceefax) (2028723) 4.35 The Art and Deco Show. (Ceefax) (s) (1158891)
 - 5.00 Newsround (7521452) 5.05 The Machine Gunners. Drama series set on Tyneside during the Second World War (i). (Ceefax) (1899100)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (i). (Ceefax) (s) (590520). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News. (Ceefax) and weather (425)
 - 6.30 Regional news magazines (655). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 - 7.00 Top of the Pops. (Ceefax) (s) (9278)
 - 7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (838)
 - 8.00 Wildlife on One: Sea Otters — The Clam Busters. (Ceefax) (s) (8925)
 - 8.30 Paul Merton's Life of Comedy. (Ceefax) (s) (7433)
 - 9.00 Nine O'Clock News. (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1471)
 - 9.30 News 45: VE-Day. The news of 50 years ago delivered in today's style by Sue Lawley. (Ceefax) (831742)

- BBC2**
- 6.20 Open University
 - 6.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (7480278)
 - 8.15 Westminster On-Line with Andrew Neil (s) (4782920)
 - 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (159384) 2.00 The Little Polar Bear (1245392) 2.05 Henry Jeremy (1945237)
 - 2.10 Songs of Praise (i). (Ceefax) (s) (363568) 2.45 Back to Work. Acupuncture treatments for back pain (7155023)
 - 3.00 News. (Ceefax) and weather. Westminster with Nick Ross. (Ceefax) (s) (5207723) 3.55 News. (Ceefax) and weather (3295297)
 - 4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (568)
 - 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. (452)
 - 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Advice on avoiding common and women. (Ceefax) (s) (2075549) 5.40 Glynis Christie's Enterprising Microphone (i) (s) (551807)
 - 6.00 Quantum Leap (i). (Ceefax) (s) (454562)
 - 6.45 Lifeswap. An Essex girl exchanges roles with a debutante (i). (Ceefax) (s) (181028)
 - 7.00 The Mrs Merton Show (i). (Ceefax) (s) (1920)
 - 7.30 First Sight: Post War Britain. Jonathan Beale talks to East End survivors of the Blitz. Wales: A Bird's Eye View of the Homeless. East: Matter of Fact: Midlands: Midlands Report. South: Southern Eye. South-west: Close Up. West: Close Up West (181)
 - 8.00 Minders. The fourth in a six-part series from the casebook of a south London community psychiatric team. (Ceefax) (s) (5658)
 - 8.30 Top Gear. (Ceefax) (s) (5075)
 - 9.00 Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin starring Leonard Rossiter (i). (Ceefax) (s) (9013)
 - 9.30 Go Back Out starring Andrew Lancel and Anita Dobson. A drama about the onset of schizophrenia. (Ceefax) (90094)
 - 10.00 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (s) (55510)

Carlton

- 6.00am GMTV (4657742)
- 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (728558) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1546433)
- 10.00 The Time... The Place with John Stapleton (s) (513258)
- 10.35 This Morning. Weekday family magazine with Richard Madeley and Judy Furrigan (8828520) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (901284)
- 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (779452)
- 12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (770471) 1.25 Emmerdale (i). (Teletext) (1641907)
- 1.55 A Country Practice (s) (3886033) 2.20 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (2057655)
- 2.50 Gardeners' Diary with John Ravenscroft (2823013) 3.25 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (407627) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (5426128)
- 3.30 The Riddlers (i) (5366034) 3.40 Wizards (i) (s) (5187051) 3.50 Garden of Friends (8836075) 4.20 Samson Superslug (Teletext) (s) (2019075) 4.45 Antimatter (i). (Teletext) (s) (1172471)
- 5.10 After 5 with Carol Keating (Teletext) (1890639) 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (834742)
- 5.55 Your Show. Viewers' video soapbox (755432)
- 6.00 Home and Away (i). (Teletext) (471)
- 6.30 London Tonight. Presented by Alistair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (723)
- 7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (4346)
- 7.30 3-D presented by Julie Somerville. Includes a report on the violence between pupils and teachers (s) (507)
- 8.00 The Bill: When Opportunity Knocks. CID want Debbie Kane to work undercover. (Teletext) (3084)
- 8.30 Heartbeat: Fruits of the Earth. Gentle drama series starring Nick Berry and Niamh Cusack. Nick pursues a moorland fester (i). (Teletext) (s) (52891)

Channel 4

- 6.35 Spiff and Hercules (7708487)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (32433)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life (i) (s) (72826)
- 9.30 FILM: The Old Curiosity Shop (1934, b/w) starring Hay Petrie, Ben Webster and Elaine Benson. A faithful dramatisation of the Charles Dickens classic, directed by Thomas Bentley (3754218)
- 11.15 Profiles of Nature: Ron Parker, Wildlife Artist. The celebrated painter at work (i) (788617)
- 11.40 Frozen North (b/w). A 1922 Buster Keaton short (368888)
- 12.00 House To House. Political magazine (52182)
- 12.30 Sesame Street. The guest is Kadeem Hardison (i) (21433) 1.30 The Wonderful World of Oz (i) (s) (73301100)
- 1.55 Joe Brown at Clapham. The story of trains, from Stephenson's 'Rocket' to today's high-speed locomotives (i) (23551822)
- 2.15 FILM: You Were Meant For Me (1948) starring Jeanne Crain and Dan Dailey. Sentimental musical about a bandleader whose career is dashed by the Wall Street crash of 1929. Directed by Lloyd Bacon (588182). Followed by *Loved Ones*
- 4.00 The Great Outdoors (i). (Teletext) (s) (636)
- 4.30 Fifteen To One. (Teletext) (s) (520)
- 5.00 Ricki Lake. The guests are teenagers who want their rowing parents to divorce. (Teletext) (s) (5769029)
- 5.45 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (831855)
- 6.00 The Cooby Show. American domestic comedy series (i). (Teletext) (823)
- 6.30 Saved By The Bell: The College Years. Campus comedy. (Teletext) (365)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (458538)
- 7.30 Loved Ones (538810)

Channel 5

- 6.00am GMTV (4657742)
- 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (728558) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1546433)
- 10.00 The Time... The Place with John Stapleton (s) (513258)
- 10.35 This Morning. Weekday family magazine with Richard Madeley and Judy Furrigan (8828520) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (901284)
- 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (779452)
- 12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (770471) 1.25 Emmerdale (i). (Teletext) (1641907)
- 1.55 A Country Practice (s) (3886033) 2.20 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (2057655)
- 2.50 Gardeners' Diary with John Ravenscroft (2823013) 3.25 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (407627) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (5426128)
- 3.30 The Riddlers (i) (5366034) 3.40 Wizards (i) (s) (5187051) 3.50 Garden of Friends (8836075) 4.20 Samson Superslug (Teletext) (s) (2019075) 4.45 Antimatter (i). (Teletext) (s) (1172471)
- 5.10 After 5 with Carol Keating (Teletext) (1890639) 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (834742)
- 5.55 Your Show. Viewers' video soapbox (755432)
- 6.00 Home and Away (i). (Teletext) (471)
- 6.30 London Tonight. Presented by Alistair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (723)
- 7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (4346)
- 7.30 3-D presented by Julie Somerville. Includes a report on the violence between pupils and teachers (s) (507)
- 8.00 The Bill: When Opportunity Knocks. CID want Debbie Kane to work undercover. (Teletext) (3084)
- 8.30 Heartbeat: Fruits of the Earth. Gentle drama series starring Nick Berry and Niamh Cusack. Nick pursues a moorland fester (i). (Teletext) (s) (52891)

Channel 6

- 6.00am GMTV (4657742)
- 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (728558) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1546433)
- 10.00 The Time... The Place with John Stapleton (s) (513258)
- 10.35 This Morning. Weekday family magazine with Richard Madeley and Judy Furrigan (8828520) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (901284)
- 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (779452)
- 12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (770471) 1.25 Emmerdale (i). (Teletext) (1641907)
- 1.55 A Country Practice (s) (3886033) 2.20 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (2057655)
- 2.50 Gardeners' Diary with John Ravenscroft (2823013) 3.25 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (407627) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (5426128)
- 3.30 The Riddlers (i) (5366034) 3.40 Wizards (i) (s) (5187051) 3.50 Garden of Friends (8836075) 4.20 Samson Superslug (Teletext) (s) (2019075) 4.45 Antimatter (i). (Teletext) (s) (1172471)
- 5.10 After 5 with Carol Keating (Teletext) (1890639) 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (834742)
- 5.55 Your Show. Viewers' video soapbox (755432)
- 6.00 Home and Away (i). (Teletext) (471)
- 6.30 London Tonight. Presented by Alistair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (723)
- 7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (4346)
- 7.30 3-D presented by Julie Somerville. Includes a report on the violence between pupils and teachers (s) (507)
- 8.00 The Bill: When Opportunity Knocks. CID want Debbie Kane to work undercover. (Teletext) (3084)
- 8.30 Heartbeat: Fruits of the Earth. Gentle drama series starring Nick Berry and Niamh Cusack. Nick pursues a moorland fester (i). (Teletext) (s) (52891)

ANGLO

- As London escape: 2.50-3.30 High Road (2532013) 3.10-5.40 Shortland Street (158033) 6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (101487) 10.40 Crime Strike (35110) 11.40 The Hidden Room (36476) 12.00am Election '95 (873476) 12.40 Politics (7775414) 4.30 Judo Fight (767232) 5.30 Asian Eye (823289)

CENTRAL

- As London escape: 2.50-3.30 High Road (2532013) 3.10-5.40 Shortland Street (158033) 6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (101487) 10.40 Crime Strike (35110) 11.40 The Hidden Room (36476) 12.00am Election '95 (873476) 12.40 Politics (7775414) 4.30 Judo Fight (767232) 5.30 Asian Eye (823289)

GRANADA

- As London escape: 2.50-3.30 High Road (2532013) 3.10-5.40 Shortland Street (158033) 6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (101487) 10.40 Crime Strike (35110) 11.40 The Hidden Room (36476) 12.00am Election '95 (873476) 12.40 Politics (7775414) 4.30 Judo Fight (767232) 5.30 Asian Eye (823289)

ITV WEST

- As London escape: 2.50-3.30 High Road (2532013) 3.10-5.40 Shortland Street (158033) 6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (101487) 10.40 Crime Strike (35110) 11.40 The Hidden Room (36476) 12.00am Election '95 (873476) 12.40 Politics (7775414) 4.30 Judo Fight (767232) 5.30 Asian Eye (823289)

ITV WALES

- As London escape: 2.50-3.30 High Road (2532013) 3.10-5.40 Shortland Street (158033) 6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (101487) 10.40 Crime Strike (35110) 11.40 The Hidden Room (36476) 12.00am Election '95 (873476) 12.40 Politics (7775414) 4.30 Judo Fight (767232) 5.30 Asian Eye (823289)

MERIDIAN

- As London escape: 2.50-3.30 High Road (2532013) 3.10-5.40 Shortland Street (158033) 6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (101487) 10.40 Crime Strike (35110) 11.40 The Hidden Room (36476) 12.00am Election '95 (873476) 12.40 Politics (7775414) 4.30 Judo Fight (767232) 5.30 Asian Eye (823289)

SKY ONE

- 6.00am DJ Kat 7.00am Jay's (42427) 7.30 Teenage Hero Trailers (73704) 8.00am Power Rangers (19471) 8.30am The Simpsons (19471) 9.00am Open University (4271) 10.00am Concentration (88297) 10.30am Star Trek: Voyager (4238) 11.00am Sky 1 Rap (88297) 11.30am The Simpsons (19471) 12.00am Anything But Love (30094) 1.00am The Simpsons (19471) 1.30am The Simpsons (19471) 2.00am The Simpsons (19471) 2.30am The Simpsons (19471) 3.00am The Simpsons (19471) 3.30am The Simpsons (19471) 4.00am The Simpsons (19471) 4.30am The Simpsons (19471) 5.00am The Simpsons (19471) 5.30am The Simpsons (19471) 6.00am The Simpsons (19471) 6.30am The Simpsons (19471) 7.00am The Simpsons (19471) 7.30am The Simpsons (19471) 8.00am The Simpsons (19471) 8.30am The Simpsons (19471) 9.00am The Simpsons (19471) 9.30am The Simpsons (19471) 10.00am The Simpsons (19471) 10.30am The Simpsons (19471) 11.00am The Simpsons (19471) 11.30am The Simpsons (19471) 12.00am The Simpsons (19471) 12.30am The Simpsons (19471) 1.00am The 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THURSDAY MAY 4 1995

Three wickets tumble after lunch as West Indian resistance falls away

Australia almost on top of the world

FROM SIMON WILDE
IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA

AUSTRALIA were on the verge of an historic victory shortly after lunch on the penultimate day of the fourth and final Test match here yesterday. Starting the day needing seven more wickets to complete the first series defeat of West Indies since 1980, they had to be content with just one before lunch, albeit that of Jimmy Adams, but three more shortly after the interval took them within sight of the finish.

At lunch, West Indies had moved from 63 for three to 128 for four, still 135 runs behind, with Winston Benjamin, the nightwatchman, providing some unexpected and unorthodox resistance on 45 not out. But, inside five overs of the afternoon session, the lunch pair of Benjamin and

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First innings 265 (R B Richardson 100, B C L. L. 63)

Second innings

S C Williams b Ruffell 20
R B Richardson c and b Ruffell 14
B C L. L. b Ruffell 10
J C Adams c S R Waugh b McGrath 19
W H M Benjamin b Ruffell 45
C L Hooper run out 13
K L T. Arthurton b G. Waugh 14
R C Browne not out 11
C E L. Ambrose not out 25
Extras 25
Total (7 wkts) 168

C A Walsh and K C G. Benjamin to bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37, 2-37, 3-46, 4-98, 5-134, 6-140, 7-166

AUSTRALIA: First innings 531 (S R Waugh 200, M E Waugh 128, G S Blewett 69)

Umpires: S Bucknor and C L. Benjamin

Hooper were both out. Benjamin one ball after reaching his second half-century in Test cricket. Hooper suicidally run out going for a second run on Julian's left arm.

Six overs later, Arthurton responded to the return of Waugh by driving the leg-spinner for four then pulling him for six in successive balls; the next ball, however, he was leg-before, padding up, to leave West Indies on 166 for seven.

Australia must have been confident of wrapping up the match yesterday once they awoke to see that the thunderstorms that had soaked Kingston the previous day had given way to blue skies. There was little local enthusiasm for the last rites, the crowd number-



Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper, watches in dismay as Benjamin survives another delivery from Waugh on the fourth morning of the final Test in Jamaica. Photograph: Gill Allen

ing barely 2,000. The Australians among them were made to wait over an hour for the first success, although their team could have dismissed both overnight batsmen within the first 13 balls of the start. Reiffel took the first over and, with his second ball, found the outside edge of Adams' bat only for Healy to drop a straightfor-

ward chance low to his left. To the first ball of Reiffel's second over, Benjamin attempted an extravagant cover drive but contrived only to make marginal contact and the ball flew between the heads of first and second slip.

With Reiffel losing heart at these setbacks and Waugh finding his line elusive to a left and right-handed partnership, Adams and Benjamin found life relatively easy. Adams, who has been out to Waugh only once in seven Tests, had scored only five of the 33 runs added. But to the

first ball after the resumption, McGrath had him well caught in the gully by Steve Waugh. Benjamin had little idea how to play Waugh but the leg-spinner was finding so much turn and bounce that his task was not simple. Nor was it for his team-mates.

Healy took so many balls up in front of his face that he took the extraordinary but sensible decision to don a helmet, perhaps the first time that a wicketkeeper had worn a helmet at this level.

Waugh was taken off after a ten-over spell that cost only 18

runs. His replacement, Steve Waugh, thought he had claimed the second wicket of the day just before lunch, but a concerted appeal by the close fielders for a catch down the leg-side against Benjamin, on 43, was turned down.

While defeat here would unquestionably end the reign of West Indies as unofficial but undisputed world champions, it would not automatically mean Australia succeeding to the title. In the past four years they have won Test series against India, Sri Lanka, England and New Zealand but not

Pakistan or South Africa. Indeed, when Australia toured Pakistan last year, they lost a three-match series 1-0. However, even Salim Malik, who captained Pakistan then, said that Australia had batted and bowled better - and, since then, confusion and scandal has engulfed both Salim and Pakistan cricket.

Australia will be confident of beating whatever sort of side Pakistan sent later this year. A tougher obstacle will be South Africa. The countries are next scheduled to meet late in 1997, but Australia should

beware. Ali Bacher, South African cricket's guiding spirit, has been saying for some time that his country will be cricket's leading power by the end of the century.

Come what may, Australia's Caribbean tour may be judged as the point at which a very good side made the transition to a great one. It would be the culmination of a long-term strategy begun in 1987 and for which Allan Border and Bob Simpson deserve much credit. Both were on the ground yesterday to see the fulfilment of a long-held dream.

Lord's to permit screening of video replays

BY JOHN GOODBODY

MCC will break with tradition and allow a video screen to show action replays during the second Test match against the West Indies, which begins on June 22.

Members were told of the experiment at the club's annual meeting yesterday. The screen, which will have an area of 54 square metres, will be situated above the Edrich stand at the Nursery End of the ground.

"Anyone who has visited Melbourne will know of the immense attraction that the replay screen provides," Sir Oliver Popplewell, the club president, said. "We shall simply see how it operates, but if it is anything like as good as at Melbourne, it will be an enormously welcome addition to the facilities at the club."

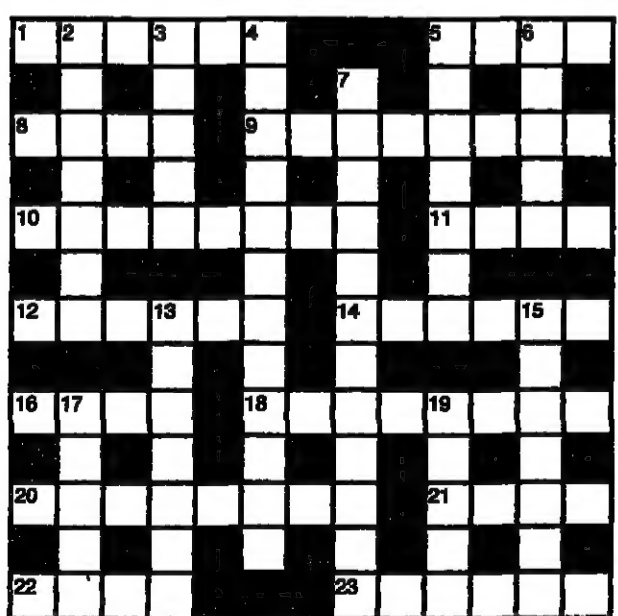
Under the regulations of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) leg-before decisions will not get a second viewing and there will also be no replays from the moment a bowler begins his run until the ball is dead.

A screen has been used at the Oval since 1991 and last year similar facilities were also available at Old Trafford and Headingley. These employed the Starvision system. But the ones to be installed at Lord's and the Oval this year will be Jumbotron screens, which are brighter and have superior picture definition.

The screen at Lord's will be sponsored by Citroen UK but no advertisements will be shown, Rob Mason, a spokesman for Citroen, said. About three-quarters of the spectators will be able to see the screen without difficulty. The pictures will be taken from the BBC. Mason added that research by the TCCB had found that the majority of spectators were "very much in favour" of screens at grounds.

Roger Knight, the MCC secretary, said: "The members were very positive. They are quite looking forward to the trial, since the screen can be used not only for replays but for information and scoring."

The new indoor cricket school at Lord's is scheduled to open by mid-July and new offices for the TCCB should soon be under construction. There is talk of increasing the ground's capacity by redesigning the Grandstand.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 462

- ACROSS
- 1 Sports grounds (6)
5 Hit high: roof space (4)
8 Wheelie (4)
9 Instrument: Nanki-poo's, in disguise (8)
10 Wearying (8)
11 Cash-drawer: plough (4)
12 Stone cut for building (6)
14 Beat: party (6)
16 Withhold: prop (4)
18 Acquired: improved: reprimanded (6,2)
20 Waterfall (8)
21 Gap: without effect (4)
22 Indication (4)
- DOWN
- 23 Removing moisture; forgetting lines (6)
2 Equatorial regions (7)
3 Campers' pot: US Deep South (5)
4 Sporting incident shown over and over (6,6)
5 Crustacean, had Quadrille (7)
6 Last (round) (5)
7 Tamed, house-trained (12)
13 Reveal: expose (3,4)
15 Like a lizard (7)
17 Pull net to catch fish (5)
19 Diplomat: final verse stanza (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 461

ACROSS: 1 Highbrow 5 Waif 8 Delta 9 Cockade
11 Ash 12 Killarney 13 Tippet 15 Hiatus 18 Confusion
19 Jim 20 Moneyed 21 Avian 22 Stew 23 Pell-mell
DOWN: 1 Hydrant 2 Gulch 3 Black Beauty 4 On call
6 Against 7 Fiery 10 Clarion call 14 Penance 16 Seminal
17 Kindle 18 Camus 19 Juice

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Managers demand better protection

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE League Managers' Association (LMA) is seeking talks with the Football Association in an effort to provide better protection for its members. And the LMA said it is adamant that stiffer punishments must be imposed by the courts to rid the game of its job culture, in statements yesterday.

The association dismissed the £50 fine imposed on the man who spat at Graham Taylor as "a joke", saying it was no deterrent. Robert Hollister, the Sheffield United supporter, who attacked the

Wolverhampton Wanderers manager last month at Bramall Lane, was also banned from the ground for a year.

Jim Smith, the LMA chief executive, said: "We voiced our concerns about safety to the FA two years ago. Now we want to sit down with them and discuss the situation. We don't feel there is a major problem within the game. But one incident is one too many."

"We feel the fine is derogatory. It is a joke. Surely the punishment should have been more severe. It was obviously a premeditated attack because Graham Taylor had to walk

the length of the pitch from dug-out to dressing room."

The talks, due at Lancaster Gate, will form part of the FA's new anti-racism and anti-intimidation campaign, designed to help provide a safe haven for managers and players. "We will be speaking to the LMA and other football bodies as part of the campaign," the FA confirmed.

"We want to improve the atmosphere, not just on the terraces and the pitch, but all around the ground. We will be working alongside the Campaign For Racial Equality."

In addition, Sheffield United have promised that the

situation regarding Hollister will be reviewed in 12 months, but Dave Bassett, the club manager, has stated the man must serve a life ban.

Bayern Munich had two Bundesliga points deducted yesterday for fielding too many amateur players in a league game last month. The Bayern manager, Uli Hoeness, said he will appeal.

In a match against Eintracht Frankfurt on April 15, Bayern fielded four amateurs instead of the three permitted. They still won 5-2. The ruling drops them to sixth spot and may cost them a place in Europe.

Piggott rides out fall from grace

Julian Muscat says the legend lives on despite talk of the former champion jockey retiring

IT WAS Elton John who sang of Marilyn Monroe. "The candle burned out long before the legend ever did." So it is with the career of Lester Piggott, long since shunned by Britain's racehorse trainers. Piggott, 59, is despondent with the drought and has talked tantalisingly of retirement - for the second time. It is not so much a matter of choice. Rather, that it may be forced upon him by the belief in racing circles that his best days are behind him. His predicament is illustrated by the meagre 19 winners he rode last season. However, if his riding career is thought to have lapsed, Piggott's legend still burns brightly.

The rumour mill has been churning since Piggott allowed his British riding licence to lapse in March. And he has not applied to the Jockey Club for its renewal. "There is not a lot for me here [in Britain]," Piggott said. "I'll have to decide whether it is worth carrying on; whether I want to have the odd ride, or not at all."

However, no sooner had "the maestro" spoken than his wife, Susan, dismissed talk of his retirement as "premature". Piggott, 12 times the champion jockey, was simply putting his feet up after a successful winter schedule in Singapore, Chile, Australia and Dubai.



Piggott: gone to ground

"He will be back later this year," Mrs Piggott said yesterday. "He is just taking a breather after a busy few months' riding overseas." In time-honoured fashion, Piggott had gone to ground. It was ever thus for the riding phenomenon who, aged 12, standing 4ft 6in tall and weighing less than 5st, recorded his first win at Haydock Park in 1948. More than 4,000 winners later, Piggott rode off into the sunset on the back of a lucrative retirement evening at Nottingham racecourse in 1986.

He returned after four years - a period during which he served a prison sentence for tax evasion - to capture the Breeders' Cup Mile aboard Royal Academy, trained by his long-time ally, Vincent O'Brien. It was on O'Brien's prompting, a month earlier, that Piggott returned

from his riding exile. But there were to be no additions to his record nine Derby victories, no renaissance in his ailing fortunes.

His telephone, once the preserve of trainers begging for his services, had become a silent companion. Time had caught up with his unique riding skills.

Piggott will be at Newmarket for the 2,000 Guineas on Saturday, but only as a spectator. Ten years ago, Kevin Darley, who rides the odds-on favourite, Celtic Syring, would have lived in fear of his replacement by Piggott. As it is, Darley will have lost no sleep. The threat no longer exists.

John Dunlop, the trainer for whom Piggott rode Circus Plume to win the Oaks in 1984, spoke for many when he said yesterday: "I'd love to see Lester back in the big league but it is unrealistic to think it could happen. He was a hero of mine when I started training 30 years ago."

EAU
DE
ROCHAS
POUR
HOMME

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